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A
CRITICAL EXAMINATION
OF OUR
MATERIA MEDICA

BY

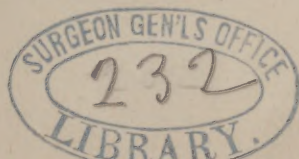
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A CRITICAL EXAMINATION OF OUR MATERIA MEDICA.

THESE studies have been undertaken for the purpose of satisfying ourselves of the absolute and relative values of the various contributions to our *Materia Medica*. A few comparisons between drugs, and some of the leading characteristics of each remedy, have been pointed out, partly by way of illustration and partly to assist the student. We conceive it the duty of everyone who criticises the *Materia Medica* to state clearly and specifically his reasons for doubt (in doubtful cases): a critic in this matter will not do himself justice, nor the profession a service, by general statements. Cries of "fraud," of "trash," of "superfluity," have become quite common of late, and the attention of students has been turned away from the thorough investigation of the properties of drugs, and fixed upon incomplete digests and condensations, which (good as far as they go) serve only for a superficial application of the remedy, and leave *unusual* cases of disease to take care of themselves, thereby bringing homœopathic therapeutics into disrepute. As editor of the *Encyclopædia*, we were compelled to believe in the honesty of every observer, and to accept provings not clearly corrupt, for that compilation, which aimed to present all available material to the profession for use and critical examination. Now, no longer editor, but student, we propose to examine critically and impartially the pathogeneses presented to us in that work.



An individual proving is not to be discredited because of its failure to present symptoms similar to those of another proving of the same drug. The tissues and functions of an individual vary greatly in their susceptibility to drug action. In one, *Phosphorus* (for example) may produce symptoms referable, for the most part, to the nervous system; in another, symptoms chiefly of the respiratory apparatus; in still another, symptoms of the alimentary canal. *Mercury* produces in its victims, sometimes tremors, (paralysis agitans,) with very few symptoms of tissue change; sometimes most extensive connective-tissue destruction, with but few symptoms from the nervous system. We are, therefore, permitted to accept as reliable most diverse effects in different provers of the same drug; and this fact must be kept constantly in mind. In experimenting with small doses, (the smallest that will produce any effect are the best,) we obtain characteristic symptoms from certain organs which, in other individuals, may remain unaffected; while different but equally characteristic effects may be developed in other parts of the body. It is, indeed, rare to obtain a perfect knowledge of the power of any drug from one person, or from a given quantity of the medicine.

So it follows that we are obliged to judge of a proving by a study of its own inherent character, as well as by a comparison with other provings. Unfortunately, some contributors to the *Materia Medica* furnished neither an account of the methods employed in obtaining symptoms, nor any statement of the order of their evolution: these symptoms, obviously, have been obtained from different individuals, but have been separated, re-arranged under various anatomical headings, and the whole vouched for by the compiler. To judge of the value of such contributions, we are usually obliged to have recourse to clinical experience. Others, again, have added to their provings symptoms observed in patients who have recovered after the administration of a drug. The principle being—that if a drug removes a symptom, *it could produce it*. Such symptoms are found in the provings of Hahnemann, Wolf, (Thuja,) Houat, and others. We propose to discard all such compilations, *except those of Hahnemann*. Hahnemann was a careful consci-

entious and critical observer, and nearly all of his observations have been verified; but we cannot permit this by-way into the *Materia Medica* to remain open. The contributions of Wolf and Houat show how a reckless enthusiasm and unbridled credulity utterly invalidate a few valuable observations.

With these preliminary remarks, let us turn to the first drug in the *Encyclopædia*:—

Abies Canadensis, hemlock spruce;—a tincture is prepared from the young shoots and from the bark. The bark contains a very large amount of Tannin and other substances, (oils, or resins, acids, etc.,) and is somewhat similar in this respect to other species of the *coniferæ*.

Dr. Gatchell, our only authority, gives us symptoms obtained from a man and a woman, but has not published any account of the sequence of the symptoms, nor of the doses which produced them. The provings *seem* reliable. Notice the marked action on digestion, and compare with *Abies nigra*. In *Abies Canadensis* the prover suffered from flatulent distentions, labored breathing, and an irritable disposition; in *A. nigra* we find pain (like a stone) in the stomach, easy getting out of breath, and low spirits. In both a craving for food seems to have been produced. Though no verifications of *A. Canadensis* are known to us, we do not hesitate to pronounce the symptoms genuine.

Abies nigra, black spruce.—A tincture is prepared from the gum, which doubtless contains a resin or turpentine similar to that in hemlock. There can be no doubt about the truth of Dr. Leaman's provings with the tincture. The indigestion is very marked, characterized by pain after eating. Dr. Smith's observation on the effect of chewing spruce gum, has defined the pain, "like a hard-boiled egg," and this has been abundantly and brilliantly verified. We have cured this form of indigestion scores of times, by means of the dilutions. Notice the depression of spirits, the headache, with flushed face, constipation, bad dreams, etc.

A proving by Dr. Bell (published in the Supplement, Vol. X,) exhibits some new symptoms. This proving was made with the dilutions, (9th, 12th, and 30th,) and was verified in so far as repeated doses caused a return of the same symptoms. These

are after all, not so unlike those previous provings. Notice the "Dyspnœa," "heavy, slow beating of the heart," "sharp, cutting pains in the heart," etc. The "pain in the ear" is new. We should expect from dilutions some such effects; for while large doses of crude drugs are apt to stun and benumb, dilutions irritate and excite. We believe Dr. Bell has given us reliable symptoms, and as we study cognate drugs this belief will become fixed. Let us now turn to—

Pinus Sylvestris.—These pines are very like the spruces, chemically as well as botanically; and a study of the different coniferæ will prove very profitable just at this time. The provings of *Pinus sylvestris* were made from a tincture of the leaves and twigs. Dr. Demeures took 3 drops of the tincture, and Dr. Patzack observed the effects of baths of an infusion of pine leaves. Dr. Demeures' symptoms appear trivial: pains in the tibia and toe, cramps in the calf, sensitiveness of the walls of the chest, and a few others; but Dr. Patzack has observed effects *which are strikingly like those of Abies nigra*: pressure in the pit of the stomach after eating, and distention, despondency, dull headache, oppression of the chest, palpitations, nettle-rash, etc. Bearing in mind Dr. Bell's proving, notice the "*sticking in the ears.*" We find here, then, reliable symptoms; harmonious when compared with each other, and corroborative of the provings of *Abies*. In *Pinus C.* we find additional effects; on mucous membranes, for example, "inflamed eyes; thin, pasty stool, followed by constipation: increased bronchial mucus, hoarseness," etc., for which Tannin may be held responsible.

Let us look at *Tannin*. A clear understanding of the effects of this substance will be of service in unravelling the complex pathogenesis of many a plant. Unfortunately, very little exact information concerning *Tannin* is to be had. This organic acid is widely diffused throughout the vegetable kingdom; it is found most abundantly in the oaks, the sumachs, (*rhus typhna*, *glabra*, etc.) the walnut barks, *uva ursi*, catechu, kino, rhubarb, roots of many of the roses and blackberries, *artemisizæ*, *ratanhia*, etc., etc, and in many coniferæ; it is very soluble in water, less so in alcohol; it exhibits a strong chemical affinity for albumen, which it coagulates. In large doses it produces most

obstinate constipation, dryness of mucous membrane, vomiting, thirst, great prostration, palpitation, etc. Experiments on animals show that it does not interfere with peristaltic action, but while the bowels are dry efforts to evacuate continue, and are often attended with most violent pain. Smaller doses cause *heat in the epigastrium, feeble digestion, palpitation, oppressed respiration, and increased secretions*. Tannin also increases the amount of uric acid in the urine. Turning now to *Thuja* we find: "pressure as from a stone in the stomach," and a host of similar symptoms, showing a generic relationship. In *Sabina*, "sensation as if the stomach were too full, as if she had eaten too much," and many other similar symptoms. (Observations on *Juniperus Virginiana* give us only symptoms from the essential oil.) All through the pathogenesis of substances rich in *Tannin* we may find these symptoms; and these substances may form an instructive group for study.

The characteristic indications for *Abies nigra* are well illustrated by the symptoms of one sufferer cured by it. Whenever she becomes debilitated there is experienced a distressing constriction about the stomach, *as if everything were knotted up*; this sensation continues *uninterruptedly*; is not affected by eating, indeed it is just the same if she goes all day without food; with it there is no heart-burn, no belching and no flatulence. In this *constant* distress has been found the key to *Abies nigra*. *Nux vom.* is useful in similar conditions; but there is a marked aggravation after eating, when the stomach seems to tighten upon its contents, in a spasmodic way; this passes off after awhile, but returns after another meal. *Bismuth* is indicated when the distress extends through to the spine, especially if associated with burning in the spine opposite the epigastrium. *Bryonia* appears to resemble *Abies*; but in *Bryonia* there is marked aggravation from motion, and the epigastrium becomes very sensitive to pressure. Many other remedies might be compared with profit, but the student will find no difficulty in recognizing their various peculiarities. For study, follow *Abies* with *Bryonia*. The student will, however, find in *Bryonia* several riddles to solve; for in addition to *Tannin* and other substances it contains a glucoside similar, chemically and

physiologically, to *Colocynthin*. This complicates the symptoms of the intestinal canal, and gives rise to neuralgias of its own sort.

Absinthium.—Our knowledge of the effects of this remarkable plant is derived wholly from cases of poisoning; even Dr. Gatchell's "provings" contain "epileptiform convulsions," which can have been noticed only in a chronic poisoning. To understand rightly what we are studying, let us examine the preparations ordinarily used. *There is no pure "liquor of Absinth" in the market; all the essences and liquors are adulterated. Formerly Swiss Absinth (the best) was prepared by macerating in alcohol the tops of Artemisia Absinthium and other species, together with angelica root, sweet flag root, aniseseed, dittany, origanum, etc.; after distillation, there were added: essences of aniseseed, or of mint, fennel and honey.* At the present time no infusions are made; essences are first prepared and added to a poor alcohol; for a fine color, *sulphate of indigo, tincture of curcuma, picric acid, sulphate of copper and even arseniate of copper*, are added. Still, this adulteration does not alter the fact that absinth, pure and simple, produces a genuine and peculiar intoxication, *the chronic form of which is characterized by epileptiform convulsions.* Dr. Challaud, in "*Etude Experimentale et Clinique sur l'Absinthisme et l'Alcoholisme*," gives the following conclusions:—

1st. The poisonous agent in "liqueur d'Absinthe" is the essence of Absinthe; this essence alone, without alcohol or any adulteration, produces in animals an intoxication characterized by epilepsy.

2d. In man, the abuse of this liquor is followed by convulsions.

3d. This epilepsy of Absinthe differs from the epileptiform spasms noticed in chronic Alcoholism, by its *character*, by the *period of invasion*, and by its *duration*.

We have now to examine the peculiarities of the Absinthe epilepsy, a very good account of which may be found under article *Absinthe*, in Vol. X of the *Encyclopædia*. We first find that the spasms are characterized by *a large number occurring in rapid succession*. This observation has proved of service in

arresting these spasms by dilutions of Absinth. Another good observation is the *Anæsthesias* and *symptoms of general paralysis* following or even preceding the convulsions. Note also the *terrifying hallucinations* in many cases.

A number of drugs produce spasms with loss of consciousness, and many drugs arrest such spasms and cure even epilepsy; but none are like *Absinth*. *Cicuta* approaches it in severity, but the spasms indicating *Cicuta* are continuous; while the intermitting spasms of *Nux Vom.* are not attended with loss of consciousness, and are more tetanic in character. The symptoms of anæsthesia and general paralysis are clearly brought out by the most valuable provings of *Artemisia Abrotanum*, by Dr. Cushing (see *Encyclopædia*, Vol. X, *Supplement*.) The same bitter, active principle is found in nearly every species of *Artemisia*. It was described by Kromaayer in *Arch. Pharm.* cvii, 129, and named *Absinthin*. It is not an alkaloid. According to von Leonhardi, (*Osservazioni ed esperienze del. Dott. Lupis sopra la virtù antifebrile del estratto amarissimo d'assenzio*, Milan, 1828,) it causes vertigo and stupefaction. The provings of Dr. Cushing, above referred to, well repay the most careful study. The preparation used was obtained by macerating the fresh plant in alcohol. The doctor began with 6 drops of the tincture, and rose to 100. He first experienced a sensation "as if the head were squeezed in the temporal regions;" afterwards there followed frightful dreams, and trembling on waking. After 60 drops, a humming as of a bee was heard; then he had lameness and aching in the left arm; then severe pains in the back of neck, shoulders, etc.; the right hip became lame; the arms and hands became numb; afterward trembling all over; *mouth became dry and sore; respiration difficult; legs so lame that it was difficult to walk; restless on account of the pains; darting pains in various parts of the body; when driving, he often unconsciously dropped the reins.* Provings of the same plant by Dr. Gatchell give us: fugitive pains; numb sensation in fingers; loss of mental power, etc. These provings are clearly *genuine* and valuable. The immediate physiological explanation of the symptoms is to be found in the "Pathological" section appended to Absinth in Vol. I of the *Encyclopædia*. A condition similar to this is not infrequently met

with in patients; and *Absinth* or *A. Abrotanum* should come into frequent use for cerebral and spinal hyperæmia with the symptoms so clearly developed by Dr. Cushing. The amelioration from motion, the numbness and the pains, are like *Rhus*. Both Cushing and Gatchell speak of the pains as fugitive: Cushing noticed *upper left*, then *lower right*. The study of the *Artemisias* should be followed by a comparison with *Rhus* and *Zincum*. *Cimicifuga*, and a large number of cognate drugs, will readily suggest themselves.

Acetic Acid.—Our knowledge of the effects of this organic acid is derived mainly from cases of poisoning. Nos. 8 and 10 in the *Encyclopædia* (Vol. X) give us the clearest picture of the general effects. An analysis of these and other cases, and a comparison with other experiments, establish the following general features: General anæmia, with strong tendency to disintegration of red blood corpuscles; emaciation, with great paleness; slow and weak heart, with a soft pulse; an amænia, associated with great tendency to development of tuberculosis. It is interesting to note that the vegetable acids, in general, cause a *soft*, small and *weak* pulse, while the mineral acids cause a small, slow and *hard* pulse. Clearly-defined indications for Acetic Acid are not yet known. It has had some repute in Diphtheria and Typhus; it has been thought to arrest atonic hemorrhages, and to prevent night-sweats. We have had considerable experience with it, after the administration of anæsthetics, and have been *uniformly disappointed*. It ought to be given in cases of *anæmia*, with *emaciation*, and *tendency to passive hemorrhages*, particularly if *burning pains* are felt in the chest or stomach, with *aggravation from lying on the back*. The convulsions in one case of poisoning, doubtless resulted from a very large quantity. The symptoms of abdominal Typhus, reported by Orfila, as well as those of Hectic Fever (also reported by him), followed the violent symptoms of gastro-enteritis, and seem, in the former case, due to ulceration of the bowels, and in the latter to a general malnutrition. Though these general symptoms may be found in many other drugs, yet the *peculiar* tendency of *Acetic Acid* comes out strongly in the emaciation, night-sweats, etc., as above mentioned. Every observation recorded in the *Encyclo-*

perdia is reliable, though the "*Tuberculosis*" has been questioned. There is, however, reason to believe that *Tuberculosis* even might develop from the Acetic Acid anæmia.

On comparing this with other organic acids, we find that *lemon juice* (*Citrus*) produces a *small, soft and slow* pulse, with a feeling of general depression. Stevens asserts that *Citric Acid* produced a clear case of scurvy (see *Encyclopædia*, Vol. X). *Tartaric Acid* causes a very weak action of the heart, a feeble pulse, and great fatigue; can scarcely drag himself along. This acid is found in large quantities in the juice of fresh grapes; and the "*grape cure*" is said to be especially dangerous to persons with any tendency to the development of *Tuberculosis*; it certainly "*thins the blood,*" and produces rapid emaciation, frequently with impaired digestion.

It is interesting to trace the action of this acid in the pathogeneses of its salts. For example: *Ammonia* produces an accelerated pulse; rise of temperature and of blood pressure; symptoms of general sthenic fever; a general nervous irritability; with *dry skin*, and profuse urine (like *Belladonna*.) *Acetate of Ammonia* (Spts. *Mindereri*) may be administered in much larger doses than the *Carbonate*; even four ounces have been taken at once, with scarcely any result, while but a few grains of the *Carbonate* can be taken with impunity. This clearly shows that the *Acetic Acid* antidotes the *Ammonia*; indeed, it *more* than antidotes it, for the effects of *Spirits of Mindererus* are profuse secretions, (perspiration, profuse mucous discharges,) with general vascular and nervous relaxation. The use of this salt is well known and appreciated in the old school in light, synochal fevers, eruptive fevers, etc. In the *Acetate of Potash* we find a salt which possesses a redoubled power of depression, derived both from the *Potash* (one of the most powerful depressors in the *Materia Medica*) and from *Acetic Acid*. The provings under the care of Becker, (*Encyclopædia*, Vol. X,) and more recently the experiments by *Nannelly*, referred to by Ringer, substantiate what I have said; indeed, the effects could have been predicted by any one familiar with the effects of the base and the acid. It is unnecessary to pursue farther our analysis of the acetates; enough has been said to suggest me-

thods of study in this direction. No characteristic indications for the use of the drug have yet been furnished us by provings; nor are we as able to follow clearly the effects of Acetic Acid or its compounds as we can those, for example, of Nitric Acid through the organic and inorganic nitrates.

Aconitum.—*Aconitum* belongs to the natural order *Ranunculaceæ*, which embraces a large number of genera and species of plants, most of which are characterized by *irritant* properties, due to some free organic acid; though many members of the order have no acid, (uncombined,) but owe their properties to one or more alkaloids or glucosides. Some, again, occupy an intermediate position, possessing both free acid and alkaloid—for example, some species of *Aconitum*. The extreme “acid” end of the series may be represented by *Ranunculus*, *Pæonia*, *Hydrastis*, *Anemone*, (*Pulsatilla*,) and *Glematis*; the extreme “alkaloid” division by *Delphinium*, *Aconitum*, *Helleborus*, *Coptis*, *Nigella*, etc.

The genus *Aconitum* embraces about twenty species, which differ almost as much from each other as do the various members of the whole order. Some species are very rich in *Aconitic Acid*, especially those species allied botanically to *A. napellus*, (*A. ferox*, *chinense*, *neomontanum*); others have little or no acid, though considerable alkaloid (*A. anthora* and *lycoctonum*; the tuberous roots of the latter are eaten by the Laplanders, in spite of the large amount of alkaloid contained in them). All the above-mentioned species contain *Aconitine*, or an allied alkaloid, and are poisonous; their poisonous property seeming to vary directly with the percentage of alkaloid.

A. Heterophyllum contains no alkaloid, and no free *Aconitic Acid*; it has, however, a bitter principle, and is used in India as a tonic and febrifuge, in doses of 20 to 30 grains of the powdered root, repeated every three or four hours.

The species containing the largest amount of alkaloid are, in order: *A. wildenowii*, *tauricum*, *bernhardianum*, *ferox*, *chinense*, *napellus*, *Stœreanum*, etc., all blue flowered, more or less related to *A. napellus*, and more poisonous than the species allied to *A. variegatum*—namely, *A. paniculatum*, *heterophyllum*, etc. In North America we find *A. uncinatum* and *reclinatum*

in the Middle and Southern States; *A. fischeri* in the Rocky Mountains; *A. kamtschaticum* and *A. napellus*, var. *delphinifolium*, in British America. *A. uncinatum* obtained from Virginia, and *A. fischeri* gathered by Dr. Boericke in the Rocky Mountains, are being investigated; the former contains an alkaloid similar to *Aconitine*, and produces effects similar to those caused by *A. napellus*.

Very little is known about *Aconitic Acid*; it has caused restlessness in animals, and blisters on mucous membranes; it is found not only in some species of *Aconitum*, but also in *Delphinium*, *colsolida*, *Helleborus*, *Adonis*, *Equisetum fluviatile*, and *Achillea millefolium*; it differs, both chemically and physiologically, from *Anemonic Acid*, the active principle of *Anemone* (*pulsatilla*) *pratensis* and *nemorosa*, *Ranunculus bulbosus*, *scleratus* and *flammula*.

The alkaloids of the various species of *Aconitum* have been studied by numerous chemists with varying results. It seems certain that there are two distinct alkaloids—*Aconitine*, $C_{33}A_{43}NO_{12}$, and *Pseudo-Aconitine*, $C_{36}H_{49}NO_{11}$; and that both exist in some species. In *A. ferox*, the alkaloids are associated in a proportion of about 94 per cent. of *Pseudo-Aconitine*, to 0.6 of *Aconitine*; while in *A. napellus* and *stoerkianum*, *Aconitine* largely predominates, with but a trace of *Pseudo-Aconitine*; in *A. lycotonum*, there seems to be less disproportion between them. The action of the two alkaloids seems identical, except that *Pseudo-Aconitine* is much more violent, (it is supposed to be the most poisonous substance known,) and Prof. V. Schroff asserts that it produces *no facial neuralgia*.

The following effects are characteristic of *Aconitine*, and must be present in a greater or less degree in the provings of all substances which contain it:—

I. *Tingling and numbness*, commencing at the lips and tip of the tongue, and spreading over the whole body.

II. From larger doses, heart's action slow and feeble; from smaller doses, heart's action first rapid, then slow.

III. *Anxiety*, sometimes distressing.

IV. *General exhaustion*, amounting almost to paralysis.

V. *Temperature lowered by large doses, elevated by small.*

VI. *Laminating or drawing tense pains*, especially in the *nervous trigeminus* (not noticed in *A. ferox*.)

These effects, given in the order of appearance, are of necessity *general*, but the *anxiety* is most prominent and uniform; sometimes the prover suffers from excessive prostration, but is still *anxious*, even if not restless; restlessness seems not to be caused by the alkaloid, nor by *A. lycoctanum* (see remarks above on *Aconitic Acid*.) The tingling is such a uniform primary effect, that pharmacutists are in the habit of judging of the value of a tincture by its severity or prompt appearance after tasting.

Having now a general idea of the effects of the alkaloid, (and all the experiments given in Vols. I and X of the *Encyclopedia* are unquestionably valuable,) let us turn to a consideration of the provings of the different species of *Aconitum*.

Aconitum anthora.—In Vol. I, we find a proving by one of Prof. von Schroff's pupils, without doubt genuine. Note the peculiar symptom "*sleepiness and deep sleep through the whole night*;" compare with Petroz's provings of *A. lycoctanum*, in which also we find "*drowsiness*," "*and sleeps too long*," and bear in mind that these two species contain *no free Aconitic Acid*, which seems to cause restlessness: see for example the next species.

A. cammarum.—In which we find "*sleepiness*," but "*such restlessness that he wandered about the room as if crazy*." Did we not know the difference in the constituents of the species of *Aconitum* we might conclude that, if a prover of *A. anthora* or *lycoctanum* went soundly to sleep and slept off the proving, there must be some mistake about it. The full account of Schroff's provings of *A. cammarum*, given in Vol. X, is exceedingly interesting. Let us note particularly:—

I. The pulse became rapid within a few minutes, then it fell to 40 (in four hours). In Prof. Schroff it became very weak and irregular. In both provers the weak pulse was associated with great prostration, great dyspnœa, catching for breath, vertigo on attempting to rise or move.

II. *Facial neuralgia*.

III. *Anxiety*.

IV. *Formication, spreading from lips and tongue*.

V. *Restlessness.*

VI. *Increased secretion of urine.*

VII. In one case, *blisters on the leg, and desquamation.*

The study of these most interesting and valuable provings is particularly important, as *A. cammarum* is the same as *A. stockianum*, used by Hahnemann in compiling his *Aconite*.

A. ferox.—Our knowledge of this wonderfully powerful plant is derived from Prof. Schroff's heroic and indefatigable class of provers. In Vol. I a proving by Dworzak, and in Vol. X additional observations by Prof. Schroff are given. From these we learn that this species produces:

I. *Anxiety*, more distressing than any other Aconite.

II. *Violent burning in mouth, pharynx, etc.*

III. *Excessive dyspnoea*; "could not lie down; he feared paralysis of the lungs."

IV. *Excessive prostration.*

V. *Constant restlessness*; "he could not possibly lie more than a few minutes."

VI. *Numbness and formication*; "tongue insensible;" "he seemed to walk on woolen carpets," etc.

VII. *Icy coldness* of the body; at first, skin cold and dry, then "calor mordax," with copious sweat.

VIII. *Profuse diuresis.*

Notice the great severity of all the symptoms, and also Prof. Schroff's observation that this species *does not cause head-ache or face-ache*.

The symptoms experienced by Dworzak, in Vol. I, should be read to be fully appreciated.

Aconitum lycoctonum.—Dr. Petroz, our only authority for the symptoms, has furnished no information in regard to his provings, beyond an expression of regret that he could give no symptoms of the *male genital organs*.

There are a few indications of a clinical as well as of a pathogenetic source; but the symptoms which *seem* to have occurred in the sick are very few in number, while the great bulk of the pathogenesis accords perfectly with an ideal proving of this species. In the introduction* mention is made of

* *Journ. de la Soc. Gall.* 3, 1, 1852.

"a prover so remarkably susceptible that one could hardly place confidence in the result, had not the symptoms been confirmed by practical application."

This prover may have experienced these suspicious symptoms, "Ulcerated gums," "Purulent discharge from the ear," "Diarrhœa after eating pork," etc., but we are inclined to doubt it. Throwing out a half dozen of similar symptoms we have a beautiful proving.

We did not expect to find the great restlessness and anxiety, so characteristic of other species, for *Aconite acid* is lacking in this one (see remarks above); and "*Drowsiness*," "*Too long sleep*" and the like are quite consistent with the character of the plant. Read the symptoms of *Chill and fever*, of *Numbness*, or *Pain in the face, scalp and head* and many others, and it is clear that a genuine proving of an *Aconite* is before us.

Dr. Petroz* gives a list of disorders in which he has found *A. Lygocotum* useful, which somewhat disturbs our notions of the rather limited usefulness of an *Aconite* in disease; unfortunately, he does not indicate the pathogenetic symptoms which led him to use the drug in these diseases: "Dandruff, Exostosis of lower jaw, Periostitis, Chronic diarrhœa, Diarrhœa of infants and of teething children, Lumbrici, Distress caused by tape-worm, Eruptions about the anus, Induration of glands, Lymphadenitis of lower extremity, Affections of the brain with furious delirium." We still, in the year of grace, 1880, occasionally meet a homœopathic physician who asks "what is good for Chronic diarrhœa," or "Dandruff," or some other pathological term. When these names are met with they should be blotted out as mere words, *words*, words, which are to the therapist devoid of significance, and to the student a delusion and a snare.

Aconitum napellus.—An analysis of the provings of this species will include a study of the nearly allied species *A. Stoeckianum* (*A. cammarum*). Symptoms from both species have been classed indiscriminately under *A. napellus*; nor does this matter, since the two species are closely alike botanically, and do not differ in their composition.

* Loc. Sit., p. 21.

General data, by means of which the cases of poisoning and many of the provings may be examined, have already been given under the head of *A. cammarum* and *Aconitine*. We must, for reasons given above, expect to find anxiety with restlessness, neuralgic pains, symptoms of anæsthesia, prostration, weak heart, etc. The cases of poisoning which have been accepted for our *Materia Medica*, will not, we presume, be called in question; concerning them there can be no such doubt as we find in the cases referred incorrectly to *Aethusa*; and if any one doubts the expediency of quoting so many and "lumbering up our *Materia Medica* with trash," let him turn to the collection in Vol. X of the *Encyclopædia* and read *Aconite* as he never read it before, and then tell us what toxicological symptoms he would have omitted. Let us now examine the collection of Hahnemann, the provings of the Austrian Society and other individual provers or observers quoted in the *Encyclopædia*, Vols. I and IX.

Hahnemann's own provings of *Aconite* were first published in his *Fragmenta*, 1805, 138 symptoms; in 1811 the first volume of his *Materia Medica Pura* contained 206 symptoms; in 1822 the second edition contained 246 symptoms, and in 1830 the third edition contained — symptoms. Though there can be no doubt as to the genuineness of the symptoms recorded by Hahnemann as *his own* or of those derived from his class of provers, still it will not be amiss to read some symptoms of our Master, arranged in chronological order, and fairly taken to belong to one individual.

One morning early he took the tincture (most likely) or a solution of the inspissated juice of the plant; "*Immediately* I experienced dryness of the mouth, and a heaviness of the feet; the pupils began to dilate and the eyes assumed a staring expression. This was associated with a feeling of unsteadiness of the knees, especially of one knee which gave way on walking (this latter symptom continued upwards of an hour). In about fifteen minutes I felt a pain in the middle of the sternum as if it had been bruised, indeed it was aggravated by touch; then the tips of the fingers became cold and pale, and this extended over the whole of the fingers; then there was a sensa-

"tion of cramp in the soles and calves and coldness on the fore-
 "head, and I *was seized with extreme apprehension*; soon I be-
 "came intolerant of the slightest noise; about *half an hour* after
 "the dose, I was sick at the stomach, a kind of qualmish, un-
 "settled feeling, and my head began to ache, a feeling as if the
 "eyes would fall out and as if the brain were pressing outward,
 "with here and there a sensation as if the brain were raised up,
 "which was aggravated by the slightest movement, even by
 "drinking or talking. *After an hour* the dryness in the mouth
 "was especially marked on the middle of the tongue, and was
 "associated with a raw feeling (there was no thirst); then I
 "felt a burning and a fine, sticking pain in the fauces, as from
 "the stinging hairs of the fruit of the wild briar-rose. At this
 "time also I experienced neuralgic pains, namely, tearing pain
 "extending from the shoulder down the arm to the wrist and
 "even through the fingers, on every movement (rarely at other
 "times); during the continuance of this pain the hand was
 "blue; pain also in the rectum. Soon after this and *one and a*
 "*half hours* after the dose, there was a pressive pain, like a
 "heaviness, in the stomach and hypochondria; some half an
 "hour preceding this distress I had been squalmish as though I
 "had eaten some sickening sweet or fatty things. The head-
 "ache, *two hours after the dose*, was a sticking and rather pres-
 "sive pain above the orbits extending down to the upper jaw;
 "it caused nausea as though I had taken an emetic. (This
 "sticking and pressive headache over the orbits extending into
 "the upper jaw, causing nausea, has been observed in another
 "prover.—Hahnemann.) At this time also the testicles were
 "painful as if they had been bruised, and there was a painful
 "stiffness about the small of the back and hip-joints noticed on
 "moving about. I was also sleepy, and could not resist the de-
 "sire to lie down and sleep. The coldness which began in the
 "tips of the fingers, fifteen minutes after taking Aconite, now
 "involved the whole hand, which became icy cold and insensi-
 "ble as if numb, this extended up the arms, and *three hours*
 "*after the dose* I was seized with a general chilliness and anx-
 "iety. After this there was shivering over the whole body
 "with heat of the head and red cheeks, or at times with pres-

"sive headache and weeping. The cheeks became exceedingly
 "red and the face hot. A sensation of heat began in the
 "hands (which had previously been icy cold), and spread over
 "the whole body even unto the chest, though the skin was not
 "hot. During these febrile symptoms there was APPREHENSION
 "OF APPROACHING DEATH (which lasted many hours), aversion to
 "people, and especially an INCONSOLABLE ANXIETY and *piteous*
 "*wailing*, with complaints and reproaches about mishaps which
 "were often insignificant; this ANXIETY increased, till at the
 "sixth hour it was AS THOUGH DEATH WERE IMMINENT. Soon
 "after the cold feelings began I experienced a pressive pain in
 "the pit of the stomach which amounted to a real tightness of
 "the chest, a kind of distress for breath, and at the *third hour*
 "a real throbbing headache in the left side of the forehead with
 "paroxysmal, violent shocks in the right side of the forehead.
 "At the *fourth hour* a pain in the bladder when walking, a
 "tenesmus of the neck of the bladder and an *anxious desire* to
 "urinate; the bruised pain in the small of the back (before
 "mentioned) extended through the back up into the nape of
 "the neck; all my joints became weak and their ligaments
 "seemed to have lost their firmness; after this (*five hours*) there
 "was experienced powerlessness at the head of the femur, or an
 "inability to walk on account of an indescribable and intoler-
 "able pain, almost as if the head of the femur had been
 "crushed; this pain was now worse, now better, and it disap-
 "peared after lying down and sleeping. At this time there
 "was a rheumatoid pain in the nape of the neck, noticed, how-
 "ever, only when I moved the neck; this continued four hours.
 "At the *sixth hour* I was unable to indulge in my accustomed
 "smoke, either on account of the incessant choking and hack-
 "ing caused by the entrance of smoke into the trachea, or be-
 "cause the larynx had become abnormally sensitive; at this
 "time also my eyes were very sensitive to the light, a condition
 "which seemed to be a kind of re-action from a condition I
 "had experienced three hours previously, namely, a kind of
 "craving for light, a desire to look at bright light; both these
 "conditions seem to me to belong to the primary action of the
 "drug. From this time the symptoms abated, at the *seventh*

"hour there was a violent pain in the malleolus relieved by pressure; at the *eighth hour* catarrhal symptoms and coryza, and a sensation in the bronchi behind the sternum as of being asleep, a kind of numbness. At the *ninth hour* flatus that was emitted seemed very hot. At the *twelfth hour* micturition was difficult, a kind of dysuria (this was again noticed six hours later). At the *fourteenth hour* all the limbs felt bruised and there was a kind of waking delirium, I jumped out of bed imagining that I was driving sheep. Toward morning (*twentieth hour*) I had a very vivid dream in which I obtained a clear explanation of a matter that was an inexplicable riddle to me when awake. The next day (*twenty-four hours*) there were noticed only some coarse stitches in the side toward the back, and some itching pimples on the upper lip."

This is a fair presentation of Hahnemann's symptoms of Aconite, and we beg our readers to open Vol. X and compare it with Prof. v. Schroff's provings of *A. cammarum* which, as we have before stated, is doubtless the same plant Hahnemann used, and very likely the preparation is almost identical; Prof. Schroff used the extract of the root, and in the *Fragmenta*, whence this day-book of Hahnemann's is chiefly made up, the sun dried juice of the whole plant is recommended.

Let us notice particularly that *the one great characteristic* of Aconite pervades both provings, namely, ANXIOUS RESTLESSNESS; the other symptoms correspond, with the exception that Hahnemann does not record the very marked and peculiar tingling-cooling-numb feeling in the tongue and lips, nor the pronounced neuralgia of the face, though the symptoms of frontal headache extending down into the upper jaw belong to this. Hahnemann did not take as large a dose as Prof. v. Schroff gave to his provers, and this fact sufficiently explains the comparatively few symptoms of anæsthesia recorded by the former.

We have in like manner carefully analyzed the provings of Fr. Hahnemann, Almer, Hornburg, Rückert and Wahle, first published in the second edition of the *Mat. Med. Pura*, and the provings of Gross, published in the *Archiv für Hom.*, (4, 1, 161, 1825,) and incorporated by Hahnemann in his third edition. The latter provings were made by Dr. Gross on himself and

on "other perfectly healthy persons," and correspond as closely as the most critical student could wish with Hahnemann's provings; indeed, the numerous references made for comparison show how corroborative the provings were regarded. Dr. Stapf, in the introduction to the scheme, remarks that the provings serve to confirm and complete former provings, and that he has added notes to facilitate comparison.

We pass now to the examination of the symptoms quoted by Hahnemann from old authors; and we shall find in Aconite, as in other drugs, evidence of a want of care in scrutinizing their symptoms, the more surprising since we know how excessively cautious and painstaking he was in regard to symptoms obtained from his own class of provers.

Abano, Pet. de, de venenis, Cap 30. The symptoms quoted from this author's toxicology are taken (Dr. Hughes tells us) from a *general statement*. In the preparation of the Encyclopædia we early and persistently avoided all "general statements" as untrustworthy, though we were often tempted to take them, especially in cases of drugs with meagre symptoms. The few symptoms here given from Abano do not affect the general pathogenesis in the slightest degree; "all parts of the body gradually become black; the whole body swells; the eyes protrude, and the tongue hangs out." *We advise expunging his symptoms.* He was not quoted in the *Fragmenta*.

Bacon, Philos. Trans. 38, p. 287; A case of poisoning of an adult by Aconite. *A good case.* The symptoms of formication, and heat of the tongue and mouth, extending over the whole body, vertigo, heat of the face, etc., followed by sweat and quiet sleep, are clearly those of Aconite.

Dürr, Hufel Journ., IX, 108. Effects of a mixture of Aconite and Antimonial wine (not quoted in the *Fragmenta*.) *This will not bear scrutiny.* Read: "nightly raging delirium; he will not stay in bed; in the morning excessive sweat." This is all, and *must be expunged.*

Gmelin, Nov. Act., N. C., 6, p. 394. Effects when given a long time to patients. Only one symptom—"excessive prostration." This may or may not be a genuine effect of Aconite. The pathogenesis gains nothing by its retention, and *truth demands its expulsion.*

Greeding, *Vermischte Schrifte*, pp. 90-113. An account of the treatment of nine patients variously afflicted (see *Encyclopedia* I, p. 12) with increasing doses of the extract. No *Materia Medica* will stand built up with such material: *these must be erased*.

Von Helmont, in *Demens Idea*, § 12. Effects of putting a piece of root on the tongue. Curiously enough, he gives none of the symptoms we should expect—no *formication*, no pain, no heat—but only the following: “He dispatches everything in the most hurried manner, and runs about the house.” “He cannot think nor reflect; knows nothing, and has no idea of anything in his head, as usual; but feels that all his mental operations transpire in the region of the stomach; after two hours he has two attacks of vertigo, and then the usual power of thought returns to his head.” There is nothing in these symptoms to lead us to doubt their genuineness. We presume the root belongs to Aconite, and we are inclined to retain the symptoms.

Matthioli; comment in *Diosc.*, Lit. IV, Cap. 73. The symptoms were derived from experiments on two criminals, and are most characteristic of Aconite. One suffered from general weakness, distress about the heart, staring eyes, cold sweat on the forehead, and scarcely perceptible pulse; the other—vomiting of bile, heavy paralytic feeling in the arm and left leg; the paralysis suddenly shifted to the right side; sensation as if all the veins were freezing; vertigo; burning headache, as if the brain were moved by boiling water, etc.

Moraceus, in *K. Vet. Ac. Handl.*, 1739, p. 41. Poisoning of two adults. The three symptoms given indicate that the dose was excessive: they might have been caused by many other poisons. “Transient delirium,” “vomiting, followed by violent thirst,” “fatal stupor,” (“sopor fatalis,” *Fragmenta*).

Richard, from *P. Schenck*, Lib. VII, Obs. 136. This, it seems, is an account *at third hand* of one of *Matthioli*’s cases.

Koedder, from *Alberti* in *Jurisprud. Med.* IV, p. 724. Effects of applying the juice to a wound. These symptoms are good. “Cardialgia,” “Anxiety, with dread of suffocation,” “Great internal heat, with thirst.”

Stoerck, lib de Stram. Hyos. et Acon., 1762. Symptoms taken from Baron v. Stoerck, by Hahnemann: were, unfortunately, not confined to the proving of Stoerck on himself, but included those observed in patients after the administration of Aconite. Only the former should be retained. So much interest attaches itself to the experiments of Baron Stoerck that, having a copy of his works, I will quote what he has published concerning the action of Aconite:—

“CAPUT III.—DE ACONITO.

“*Aconitum*, otherwise called Napellus, with blue, hooded flowers, etc., is the Aconite of Linnaeus, with linear, laciniate leaves, broader above, furrowed with lines. Linn. Spec. Plant, p. 582.

NOTE.—The excellent copper-plate engravings of the plant shows it to be *Acon. Stoerckianum*, Reich.—T.F.A.

“This plant hitherto has been considered one of the most virulent poisons; yet the celebrated Linnaeus saw, in the northern part of Sweden, the leaves of this herb, cooked with a little fat, devoured with impunity by a woman, her husband, two children, and some old women (*Flora Lapon*, p. 179). It is frequently cultivated in gardens for ornament. For many years I have thought of proving the virtues of this plant, but the occasion did not present itself, and necessary work in other directions fully occupied my time. This having been to a great extent accomplished, I have found time to devote to this work.

“In order that the experiments might be properly performed, and without prejudice, I have divested myself of every notion which I had obtained from authors on *Materia Medica*, retaining only this much:—the plant is suspected! I have therefore made the trial, having only nature to point the way, and simple reason for a leader.

NOTE.—Baron Stoerck was the first who lifted his head above the darkness of the ages, and in this manner planted his foot upon the firm ground whereon we now stand.—T.F.A.

“The leaves and stem of the plant I reduce to powder. I

“placed a small quantity of this powder on the tongue; this
 “produced a heat of the tongue, lasting a long time, and frequent
 “momentary, wandering and lancinating pains pervaded the
 “tongue; but no other symptoms followed, nor did the pow-
 “der (left upon the tongue a couple of minutes) give rise to
 “inflammation or induce redness. As long as the heat in the
 “tongue remained, so long was there a copious flow of saliva;
 “aside from this, nothing really troublesome was observed.

“I then applied the powder to a fungoid, cancerous ulcer, in
 “order to see whether it would have a caustic, consuming
 “power. On the first day a slight suppuration was observed,
 “but the patient complained of no pain nor heat. On the se-
 “cond, third, fourth and fifth days, the same was observed, nor
 “yet was the fungus consumed. It was, therefore, proper to
 “conclude that so far, the caustic and deleterious properties of
 “this plant were not violent.

“I therefore expressed the juice and prepared, in the usual
 “way, over a slow fire, an extract. This, placed upon the
 “tongue, caused at length, slight titillation; but when I cleaned
 “it off, the tongue (perhaps accustomed to numerous experi-
 “ments) was not affected in the slightest manner. I then ap-
 “plied a grain of the extract to the inner surface of the right
 “lower eyelid. This produced no more effect than any foreign
 “substance would have done. After leaving it there a couple
 “of minutes, a copious flow of tears occurred, but no peculiar
 “heat was experienced. I then bathed the eye in pure water,
 “and had no more trouble.

“From the results of these experiments, I judged that this
 “extract might be swallowed and taken into the body. For
 “this purpose, the following powder was prepared:

“R. Extract Aconit., gr. ij.

Sacch. alb., . dr. ij.

“Mix and rub a long time in a marble mortar,
 that a most subtle powder be made.

“Of this powder, I took six grains in the morning on an
 “empty stomach, zealously intent to observe what would take
 “place in my body. Truly, I observed no change—nothing
 “unusual. On the second day eight grains, and yet I was not

“affected. So having tried it, on the third day I swallowed ten
 “grains. From this, becoming more daring, on the fourth day
 “I took twenty grains of the powder. Not a function of the
 “body was disturbed, but the extreme had been reached, and
 “all day my whole body perspired much, contrary to habit—
 “it really *sweat*. On the fifth day I again took the same dose,
 “and observed the same effect as on the fourth. On the sixth,
 “the same. On the seventh, the same. On the eighth, I ab-
 “stained from the powder, and then the sweat itself (observed
 “on the previous day) did not appear. On the ninth, I again
 “took twenty grains of the powder, and the same day was in
 “constant sweat. The same thing happened on the eleventh
 “twelfth and thirteenth days; on the fourteenth, I took nothing,
 “and experienced precisely the same as I observed on the eighth.
 “Hence it is proper to conclude:—

“1st. This powder promotes transpiration, sweat.

“2d. Since it caused no disturbance in my body, it may
 “safely be administered to patients, beginning with small doses.

“3d. It is adapted to those diseases in which noxious matter
 “may be driven out through the sudorific ducts.

“At this time, while meditating on the matter, I had the
 “following cases among my patients.

NOTE.—We quote those cases only from which Hahnemann took symptoms, italicising them. The fourteen cases detailed by Stoerck in this book are supplemented by fourteen other cases, also highly interesting, in a much larger work, entitled, “*Libellus quo continuantur Experimenta et Observationes circa nova sua Medicamenta*,” 1765.

“EXPERIMENTUM II.

“A man, 27 years of age, had suffered most violent sciatic
 “pain for six weeks; the pain at length attacked furiously the
 “right arm, and became so violent that the patient groaned
 “day and night. External and internal remedies produced
 “temporary relief; but at length the disease remained the same,
 “and the pains, after a brief momentary interval, became again
 “more violent than ever, and tormented the patient far worse
 “than before. I now administered, morning and evening,
 “twenty grains of the above-mentioned powder.

“The very first night he slept, as by a miracle, nor did he

“feel any pain. Neither did the pain return the next day; but
 “the whole body, especially about the genitals, became affected with a
 “most disagreeable itching, and everywhere red pustules* broke out,
 “filled with acrid humor. The patient was now well, had a good
 “appetite, his strength returned; but he noticed a constant,
 “slight sweat over the whole body; not, however, amounting
 “to a profuse night-sweat, such as we had in the preceding
 “patient.

NOTE.—There can be no question that the pruritus and the eruption attributed to Aconite by Hahnemann are doubtful symptoms, though we do know that Aconite, in common with many of the Ranunculaceæ, will produce vesicles which are very painful (see *Encyclopædia*, Vol. X, p. 249; Vol. I, Symptoms 1442, 1446, 1449.) Knowing, as he must have known, that vesicular eruptions frequently appear after violent neuralgic pain, and having at that time no evidence whatever of the power of Aconite to produce such eruptions, Hahnemann was not justified in putting these symptoms into the *Materia Medica Pura*, nor are we justified in retaining them; besides, they are not in the slightest degree necessary to the integrity of the pathogenesis.

“After taking the same dose of the powder for eight days, the
 “patient received a purge, consisting of five ounces of laxative
 “water (of the Vienna Dispensatory) and one drachm of sal.
 “polychr. Seven alvine evacuations were thus produced, and
 “the pustules disappeared, the pruritus became insignificant,
 “and the strength increased. He then continued to take the
 “powder seven weeks, but observed no unusual effects. At the
 “end of this time he again took the purge above mentioned,
 “and after this was completely cured. For five months he
 “suffered no relapse; he could endure the most inclement
 “weather.

“Now, did this powder dissolve the acrimony in the capil-
 “laries about the tendons and bones, cleaving to them, obstruct-
 “ing them, and producing the most atrocious pains in the
 “joints? Did it drive it in solution to the periphery of the
 “body? Both of these things seem to be taught by this case.

“EXPERIMENTUM VII.

“An unmarried woman, 22 years old, received this powder
 “on account of a tumor seated in the right iliac region. Pre-

* Pustulæ rubicundæ.

“vicious to this I had essayed to administer Conium,* but on
 “account of a peculiar idiosyncrasy she could not tolerate it;
 “it distressed her and caused vomiting. She took of this pow-
 “der ten grains morning and evening. Then she had daily two
 “or three evacuations of the bowels.

“This patient had, for half a year, an aversion to meat, and
 “would vomit whenever she even perceived the odor of meat.
 “After taking the powders for three days, she began to crave
 “meat, and on eating it, she digested perfectly. After using
 “the powders for three weeks, tumor was found to be much
 “smaller, *and she had a profuse, glutinous and yellow discharge*
 “*from the vagina.* At the end of the second month, the tumor
 “had almost entirely disappeared; the appetite increased; she
 “became stronger; but the profuse yellow, thick, discharge
 “from the uterus continued.

[We do not think that anyone will for a moment object to
 the expunging of the above symptom from our *Materia Medica*;
 its retention cannot be defended.]

EXPERIMENTUM IX.

“A woman, 43 years old, was so afflicted with most atrocious
 “pain in the right arm and foot, that she cried out day and
 “night. No opiate was able to induce sleep. I administered
 “various drugs during the space of two weeks, until the patient
 “—obtaining no relief—became completely exhausted and much
 “emaciated. I then gave the powdered extract of Aconite, 20
 “grains in the morning and again in the evening. The bowels
 “were moved several times. The pains were mitigated, and
 “the second night the patient slept tranquilly three hours.
 “The powders were continued, 20 grains three times a day.
 “On the sixth day, *broad, red, itching pustules broke out over the*
 “*whole body,* and almost all pain ceased. To this time, the pow-
 “der had been administered three times a day; and I then gave
 “the patient a purge, consisting of six ounces of laxative water
 “(*Dispensat. Vien.*) and one drachm of *sal. polychrestus.* This
 “purge, with euphorbia, operated twelve times, and by that

*Cicuta in the original; but the ancient *Cicuta* was *Conium* of the present time.—T.F.A.

“time the patient had no pain, and could freely move the arm and foot, which before the powder had been impossible.

NOTE.—The same comment made to the second case will apply to this, also. The eruption might, indeed, have been produced by Aconite, but it is very doubtful; and our *Materia Medica* stands in no need of doubtful material. We will quote also the last case, and some of the general remarks of Stoerck which follow, to throw light upon the remaining symptom given by Hahnemann from Stoerck, which, it will be seen, is a *generalization* of Hahnemann from *generalization* of Stoerck.

“EXPERIMENTUM XIV.

“A woman, 34 years old, four months pregnant, suffered from pains in her right leg and foot. No tumor could be discovered and the skin had a natural color. Various remedies, both internal and external, afforded no relief, and the patient was compelled to keep her bed, without being able to speak, on account of the pain. But the powdered extract of Aconite soon quieted the pain, brought sleep, and perfectly restored the patient within three weeks.

“From the experiments just detailed, it is evident that the extract of Aconite is innocuous, and a very efficacious medicine. *Small doses accomplish what large doses of other and most powerful drugs, exhibited a long time, failed to accomplish.* Acridity which adhered to the joints, tendons and bones, irritated the nerves and excited most violent pains, was dissolved, put in motion, and cast out of the body through the urine, *alvine evacuations, sweat, or insensible transpiration.* Scirrhus tumors and nodosities are softened, and sometimes wholly dissipated. Most atrocious pains in the joints and indurated parts are relieved and removed; ulcers which resist other drugs, sometimes disappear and become covered by a firm cicatrix. In some cases, *Aconite* surpasses *Conium* in virtue, and cures some diseases with which *Conium* does not agree, and over which it possesses no power.”

We have quoted Stoerck thus at length in order to justify our conclusions—viz.: The purification of our *Mat. Med.* by erasing from it the *clinical* symptoms taken from his cases, in the *Encyclopædia*, Nos. 802, 815, 866, 1447, 1448 and 1450.

Hencke, Provings, *Archiv f. Hom.* XX, 1, 181. These provings were made as follows: Hencke took the tincture in water daily for five days, increasing from four to thirty drops at a dose. The second day there set in the distress in the chest, as if he could not expand it; he had to breathe deeply; often reminding us of that most emphasized symptom (*spaced italics*) in the first edition of Hahnemann's *Mat. Med. Pura*—"KLEM-MENDER SCHMERZ IN DER BRUST." This heavy, full-feeling of Hencke's increased in severity day by day; the third day there were added palpitation, precordial stitches, and pressure on the vertex. Then the headache became very bad, extending into the forehead. The fourth day he had diarrhoea, and icy-cold feet in evening. The fifth day, cold hands and feet; the diarrhoea continued. Although he suspended the drug on the fifth morning, the symptoms continued some days longer, and disappeared only after ten days. I should say, also, that on the seventh day he suffered from headache, as above described, *hot face, with cold hands and feet*, especially in the evening. There can be no doubt as to the reliability of his proving. "W.," one of his provers, took the tincture five days, increasing from four to twelve drops. He experienced the same symptoms in chest, head, diarrhoea, palpitation, and, in addition, *dry cough, with bloody expectoration*. These symptoms arose after the last dose, and continued, diminishing in severity till the fourteenth day. It is not probable that the dose of Aconite taken by "W." would have caused bleeding from the lungs in a perfectly healthy person, though it certainly produces congestion in the majority of provers. Investigating the constitution of "W.," we find a man of "slender build, rather phthysical habit, arterial constitution, sanguine temperament, and sedentary habit; two years previously *he had a violent 'lung catarrh,'* with bloody expectoration, but since then had been quite well." This history does not discredit the proving; it only demonstrates that extreme results may be obtained most easily in organs that are particularly sensitive to the action of the drug. At this late day, we can properly take this view of "W.'s" proving: at that time we would have wished to wait for confirmation.

Hencke's third prover was A. B., a healthy peasant girl; she

took the tincture five days, increasing from five to forty drops a day. Her proving is still more characteristic than either of the others. On the fourth day the greatest distress was felt; heavy pressure on vertex down to forehead, general sick feeling and heaviness of limbs, dry mouth and great thirst, *face hot, hands and feet cold, pulse hard, rapid, eyes glistening*, oppression of chest, palpitation, *internal restlessness*, pressive pain in right side of chest; and sixteen hours after the dose (30 drops) a warm sweat broke out and she felt better. [This observation was made by Dr. Boutzes, and communicated to Dr. Hencke.)

The fourth prover, N. N., a man in good health, made three experiments, he mixed two drops of the tincture in forty drops water, and took in the evening eight drops of this dilution; soon after the dose he became sleepy, very sleepy; and early in the morning had an urgent stool. A few days later he took two, eight, five and twenty drops of a similar dilution, with the same effects and in addition faintness, qualmishness and painful rumbling in the bowels, and the next day a hacking cough. The third experiment, made with eight drop doses, three times a day of a dilution of five drops of tincture in thirty drops of Alcohol, developed *flushes of heat in face and slight headache in right frontal eminence extending to the upper margin of the orbit*.

The provings of this man are not very characteristic, but sufficiently so to remove all doubts as to their genuineness. We now come to an exceedingly important contribution to Aconite—THE AUSTRIAN PROVINGS. I shall not analyze each proving, but satisfy my readers by giving an account of the methods employed with some observations.

Arneth made three provings on himself. First he took repeated doses of the tincture, beginning with ten drops and increasing to forty. After the last dose he felt so sick and feverish, that he took some pellets of the seventh dilution at night and on the morning following he suffered from pain in the heart, intermittent pulse, dyspnœa, burning along the urethra while urinating, etc. His second provings with the third and second dilutions developed also the pains over the right eye,

restless nights with vivid dreams, dullness of the head and *discharge of bright red blood from the nose*. His third experiment was more heroic but developed fewer and less characteristic symptoms (this is uniformly true throughout pharmacodynamics: *the larger doses develop fewer and less reliable symptoms*). He took sixty, eighty, one hundred and one hundred and thirty drops of the tincture. After the last dose his only symptoms were: inclination to vomit and great confusion of the head. Previous to this from sixty and eighty drops had caused a recurrence of the nosebleed and an *eruption of the vesicles on the temples*.

Bahn made two experiments on himself. HE HAD SUFFERED FROM HÆMOPTYSIS, SOME YEARS PREVIOUSLY, AND EVEN NOW AFTER GREAT EFFORTS HAD OCCASIONAL TRACES OF BLOOD IN THE EXPECTORATION. We might, therefore, expect that an heroic proving of Aconite would cause bleeding from the lungs. He first took five drops of the tincture; this was followed by burning and dryness in the palate and pharynx, tickling in the larynx provoking cough; later in the day stitches in the middle of the sternum, pressure in the stomach, etc. Four days later he took ten drops followed by similar effects, with great weakness in the chest, and the next morning, *cough with blood-streaked expectoration* and a feeling of soreness on the posterior surface of the sternum, *in the evening, heat of the palms and cheeks*. The soreness in the chest continued for four days. In his second experiment he took four drops of the tincture in the evening *without any effect*, afterward he took twenty drops which developed an acute bronchial catarrh with high fever, violent stitches in the chest and symptoms of Pleuritis. For three days he was quite ill: the second forenoon he had a violent shaking chill extending over the back and chest, followed by high fever, with violent cough-stitches in side, could only lie on his back, and sweat after midnight. On the third day there was brownish red or rusty expectoration.

Fortunately, we are able to judge of this proving as well as of Heneke's "W." by one made by another of the Austrian provers, Rothansel, who also was very sensitive to Aconite, but who was perfectly well before the proving and had never

suffered from pulmonary troubles; Rothansel developed cough, hoarseness and *blood-streaked* expectoration, with a host of other most characteristic effects of Aconite. In spite of Behm's bad history his proving of Aconite will stand as genuine; a proving valuable for the very reason of its occurring in one whose respiratory organs were easily affected.

Gerstel, (the leader of this band in the proving of Aconite) took the tincture in varying doses of six to fifty drops. His proving should be read in its entirety to be fully appreciated. He experienced a great number of febrile symptoms, affections of muscles, of chest, of heart, full hard pulse of 102; anxiety, sweat, sticking pains, had hot highly colored urine, numbness of arm and thigh, glowing hot cheeks, etc. *Gerstel's wife* took the tincture in the first experiment, three drops twice; in the second, twenty drops, once. The first proving is by far the most characteristic. An hour after the first dose she experienced heat of the palms and face, with redness of both cheeks and a sensation as if they were swollen; in the afternoon after her nap she had icy cold hands, the coldness spread to the back and feet, she became very sensitive to noise, and experienced many other characteristic symptoms; the chilly feelings several times alternated with the heat. The large dose of twenty drops was followed by no symptoms; but after several days a *large number of small isolated vesicles* appeared on various parts of the body, continuing to appear and disappear for two weeks.

Maschauer took the tincture in doses of five to twenty drops, and in a second proving forty to eighty drops. The first proving gives us: shivering, restless nights, palpitation, heat in chest as of hot water, violent pressure in vertex, dry cough from scraping in the throat, etc. The second proving: heaviness of head, anxious beating of heart with slow pulse, so that he had to sit down with exhaustion; painful stitches in left side, oppressed respiration relieved by cough, catarrhal symptoms in nose, constant distressing restlessness, anxiety as from a great misfortune, etc.

N. N. took the tincture for sixty days, taking in all 2386 drops, beginning with fifteen drops and rising to seventy. The symptoms are characteristic, and Gerstel remarks that a stetho-

scopic examination demonstrated an endocarditis developed by the drug, with a constant alternation of the rheumatic symptoms in the arm and the heart symptoms.

Reisinger took the tincture, five to sixty drops, the proving lasting from Jan. 5th to March 15th. A second proving began on March 18th with sixty drops, on April 1st he had risen to two hundred drops, on the 5th one hundred and sixty drops, and on the 8th one hundred and eight drops of the tincture. These provings are clearly characteristic of Aconite: first, crawling and heat in the fingers, shivering over the back and over the whole body, followed by slight heat, especially in the evening.

NOTE.—The recurrence of fever in the evening, noticed by so many provers, is not of necessity periodic; the doses were taken in the morning in nearly every case, and twelve hours generally suffices for the development of the chilly stage followed by fever.

On following days other characteristic symptoms were noted. The second proving developed prickling and burning on the tongue, *burning and heat in the lungs*, pressing headache, better in open air, chilliness of the back, *numbness of the snail of the back and down to the lower extremities*, frequent profuse micturition; ANXIETY ABOUT THE HEART, WITH VERTIGO; cold extremities, leaden heaviness of the feet, *anxious tremblings*; *a seething throughout the body, as if the hands and feet would fall asleep*; *numbness extending from the teeth to the maxilla, outer corner of the eye and over the whole body*, feeling as if the brain were large and pressed against the skull, etc.

Rothensel made a very fine proving with the tincture, beginning with six drops and increasing one drop a day, till on the ninth day he took fifteen drops, and continued to observe effects for two weeks afterward. He became affected with a cough, fever, expectoration of blood-streaked mucus (on the nineteenth day burning pains in the chest, pains in head extending down into the cheeks, the supra-orbital region became swollen, etc.)

Schwartz began with three drops of the tincture and increased to *four hundred drops* at one dose; a clear and characteristic proving on a healthy, strong man.

Sterz made four different provings; the *first* with three to twenty drop doses of the tincture; the *second* with ten to twenty drop doses; the *third* with forty to eighty drop doses; the *fourth* with one hundred drops of the first cent. dil. (alcohol) the first day, one hundred drops of the second dil. the second day, one hundred drops of the first dil. (water) the third day. In all his provings we find the familiar Aconite symptoms.

Wachtl made three provings (the name of the drug was not known to him). First he smelt of the tincture, and experienced two symptoms, the first (half an hour after) a long violent stitch in the left heel, extending along the tendo-achilles to the hollow of the knee, repeated ten or twelve times, at last so violent that he had to sit down, when it disappeared; the following night was restless.

These are clearly the result of the Aconite. *Wachtl* was a sensitive prover; besides the character of the pain is unmistakable, and subsequently, from the tincture taken internally, he suffered similar sticking pains in the shoulder, chest and knee joint; and the day after fifty drops of the tincture, tearing stitches in nearly every joint. His proving with the tincture is very fine; the pains, the sensations of congestion, the *anxiety, shiverings and heat*—even vomiting, etc., etc.—are clearly the result of Aconite.

Watzke made five provings: *first*, he began with one drop of the tincture, and increased to ten drops; *second*, he took fifteen drops, one dose; *third*, twenty drops daily for four days; *fourth*, he took from fifteen to eighty drops; *fifth*, more than two months after the last proving, he took the 12th dec. dil. several times repeated, and after four days the 8th dec. dil. An examination of his provings of the tincture reveals the familiar Aconite symptoms, with some additional ones peculiar to the individual. He suffered from pains of a griping, pressing, gnawing character in various parts of the body, "not unlike strong shocks from a battery;" *pains in the tendo-achilles*; numerous febrile symptoms; anxiety; dry cough; sticking pains in chest, and a host of similar effects. His peculiar symptoms were: "Sensation as if an angular substance were sticking in the throat, with an elongated swollen uvula, sticking-burn-

ing along the eustachian tube; very violent contraction of the anus, not like a tenesmus, etc., etc. From the dilutions he experienced no symptoms from the twelfth, but from the eighth he did. Dullness of head; sensitiveness of upper half of eyeball, as though it were pressed out, rather relieved by stooping; followed by the sensation ("*so decided and persistent after former doses of the tincture*") of a pressure on the vertex, as from a tight cap; restless sleep, vivid dreams. These few symptoms from the eighth dil. are not questionable.

Helen W., a girl of 18, took the first cent. dil. doses of ten to seventy-two drops, and the tincture ten to thirty drops, followed by most characteristic and severe results; after the last dose of the first dil. she had *enormous thirst*, stitches in lower part of left chest, etc.; from the tincture, heat in face and throat; red, dry, sore throat; a dry, shrill cough; *burning in eyes*; VIOLENT PAIN IN THE LARYNX; sticking pain in the head on coughing; shaking chill, followed by general dry heat, etc., etc.

Würstl took the tincture in doses of six to fifty drops. His proving is characteristic of the drug; of especial interest we note that "for sixteen days after a dose of thirty drops, he suffered daily, between 11 and 1, with attacks of vertigo, dull head, drawing in the knees, calves and elbows; constant sweet taste in the mouth; saliva mixed with red streaks; qualmishness, with urging to stool; frequent itching in the rectum, with discharge of white, hot mucus; restless night. Würstl was in perfect health prior to the proving.

Warmb made two provings with the tincture, and one with the third cent. dil. He developed (like some others) marked drawing pains in the cervical muscles, hip-joint, right thigh and shoulder, *tendo-achilles*, stiffness of muscles, etc.; also a symptom similar to one by Würstl—"a feeling as though warm liquid were escaping from the anus." *Warmb* did not, however, prove to be sensitive to the drug. He took the tincture twice a day, beginning with five drops and increasing to *one hundred*, taking 2325 drops within six weeks. Afterward he took one hundred drops of the third cent. dil. twice a day for five days and experienced similar effects. "Drawings here and there in

the joints, pressure in the chest, dull stitches in the brain," and once the above-mentioned symptom in the anus.

Zlatavovich began his provings with five drops of the tincture and increased to two hundred drops at a dose, taking 5000 drops in sixty-eight days, producing a superb proving, with most of the characteristic mental, heart, lungs and nervous symptoms of Aconite. He then made another proving, beginning with ten drops of the second cent. dil., and gradually increasing to two hundred drops, developing a pathogenesis quite as characteristic, though not as stormy as before.

These Austrian provings are clear and most valuable. In them we find all the great characteristics of Aconite; they corroborate and illumine the earlier provings of Hahnemann; they have enlarged our knowledge of the pathological processes which Aconite is able to produce, and have furnished us with many new and most reliable symptoms. Can any one of these provings be discarded? Can we afford to omit one single symptom recorded by these intelligent and accurate observers?

We now pass to the examination of provings published by Dr. Jousset, *L'Art Méd.*, 34, 427.

First.—Dr. Jablonski took the tincture, three drops, repeated after an hour, and after two hours more six drops. He experienced pains in the joints, heaviness of head, constriction of throat, red face, neuralgic pain in right temple, etc. The temperature rose gradually from 36° C. to 36.8° ; the pulse fell at first from 68 to 64, then rose to 80.

Second.—The same man took six drops of tincture, repeated after two hours. The pulse and temperature were both lowered a little; general symptoms similar to those observed in the previous experiment.

Third.—The same took six drops of tincture twice; the pulse fell in this proving from 80 to 55, the temperature from 36.4° C. to 36.2° ; symptoms more numerous and persistent.

Fourth.—The same took six drops of tincture, once; the pulse fell in thirty minutes from 66 to 64, then rose in two hours to 86, then fell to 55 in three hours more, where it remained for three hours, then rose to 75; the temperature rose, then fell, then rose again after second dose, then returned to normal.

The pruritus, noticed in previous provings, seemed quite marked in this one, especially on the face, limbs and back; other symptoms same as before.

Fifth.—The same took six, then twelve drops of tincture; effects much the same.

Sixth.—The same took six drops once; this time the pulse rose steadily from 60 to 100, then fell to 60, then rose to 90; the temperature rose from 36.2° to 37° (pulse 100), then steadily fell.

Seventh.—The same took twelve drops, once.

Eighth.—The same took eighteen drops, once; the pulse fell from 90 to 60; the temperature fell from 36.8° to 36.4° .

These experiments are instructive, though they do not present a full list of Aconite symptoms.

Two authorities mentioned in the *Encyclopædia* were taken from Roth's *Mat. Med.*, the originals being inaccessible at that time. *Schneller* (No. 42) refers to the Austrian provings (Allop.) with the crude drug; since obtaining the original provings, we have compared and found the symptoms correct. *West* (No. 37), *we are sorry to say should never have been admitted*. The symptoms are curative, having been observed after Aconite in a woman whose menstruation had been suppressed by a bath: the three symptoms of menstruation from the author should, therefore, be erased (862, 863 and 864).

The next in order are Robinson's provings, Nos. 38 (Vol. I) and 80 (Vol. X, Suppl.). His proving (*B. J. of Hom.* 24, 678) with the tincture, and various potencies, is certainly a most characteristic one of Aconite. In number of important and unmistakable symptoms, it rivals the best of the Austrian provings. We must, however, regret that Dr. Robinson rarely allowed either a single dose or any single preparation to act by itself. His other provings (on page 513 of same vol.) were made on two women, both very sensitive to Aconite. One woman, after the twelfth potency, felt restlessness at night, great excitement, eyes bloodshot, and depression of spirits; the other, after the 30th, felt extremely prostrated, beaten all over, and drowsy. These are, to our mind, clearly due to Aconite: the same effects have been observed in other less sensitive persons after the tincture.

The two authorities next in order are "H.N.S." and "T.C.D." The first named took either the *tenth* cent. or a lower potency, and observed: *erratic pains in the right supra-orbital, temporal and frontal regions, and at the base of the nose; eyes bloodshot; pain in the right teeth, below right ear, in right knee; congestion of fauces; muscles sore and stiff; tendency to looseness of the bowels.* After a few days he took another dose, fearing the former symptoms might not have been due to the drug, and experienced pain in the teeth and left side of the head; *fulness of head.*

This is, without the slightest shadow of suspicion, a good proving of Aconite; comparison with former provings cannot fail to convince anyone of its purity. "T.C.D." took, ignorant of the medicine or the dilution, the 6th cent. dil., and experienced symptoms "certainly abnormal, and I believe due to the drug, whatever its attenuation." Food distressed after eating; vertigo; posterior part of brain feels injected; increased sexual desire; testes swollen, hard; emissions, even after coition; lascivious dreams. A second trial developed drawing pain in right testicle, and uneasiness in the right kidney. It is unnecessary to receive this proving on faith; the symptoms are precisely those developed in less susceptible persons by the tincture, and we must accept it as a genuine contribution to our pathogenesis.

Nos. 41, symptoms from Fleming "On Aconite," and 43, Peters, effects of a poisonous dose, (N. AM. J. of HOM., 3, 133,) will not be called in question.

The collection in Vol. X, Supplement, is mostly made up from cases of poisoning. Dr. Robinson's provings (No. 80) have been noticed; those reported by Dr. Berridge and Dr. Lillie (91 to 98) remain to be examined.

First.—A man took a dose of "C. M." Fincke, (whatever that may be!!) and immediately noticed "a shooting downward in the left wrist, middle of palmar surface,"—a very likely symptom, and the only one observed. Comparing this with other provings, we are compelled to recognize the fact that Aconite produces a host of sharp pains in various parts of the body. (one of its most common effects,) and that the Austrians

observed, "acute pain along the flexor tendons of forearm down to little finger;" and Hahnemann reports, "tearing pain in the wrist." We must admit this proving, meagre and incomplete as it is.

Second.—Dr. Berridge took Acon. 200, and reports one "symptom," namely, "Drinks get into larynx, causing coughing." This is not a new symptom: we have abundant evidence of the power of Aconite to cause paralysis of the tongue and pharyngeal muscles, with difficult swallowing, and there is every reason to suppose that it might produce the above symptom. Numerous cases of poisoning produce inability to swallow, choking or swallowing saliva, and Hahnemann's own symptom (probably from the tincture), "Food and drink pass easily into the larynx, and cause cough, etc., coincides exactly with Dr. Berridge's one symptom. We only find it difficult to believe that the dose produced but *one* symptom; *there's the rub*. Still we must give Dr. B. credit for honesty; we recognize Aconite in his symptom.

Third.—Dr. Lillie gave the 30th dil. to six physicians: *the pulse of each one rose immediately*; this result is immaterial; and, in the case of these persons, not conclusive, since the pulse would naturally rise under such circumstances. Still we have enough evidence that small doses of Aconite will induce an increased rapidity of the beating of the heart; and there is nothing objectionable in retaining these single symptoms.

We have now examined the pathogenesis of Aconite, for the purpose of exposing any false statement concerning it, and of winnowing out the chaff, and with the following result: *We must eliminate.*

No. 10, *Dürr*; symptom 1. No. 11, *Gmelin*; symptom 1382. No. 12, *Greeding*; symptoms—147, 259, 278, 376, 526, 604, 616, 627, 629, 646, 650, 651, 774, 777, 795, 811, 812, 813, 814, 865, 1124, 1174, 1235, 1354, 1433, 1499, 1648, 1651, 1654 and 1655. No. 18, *Storck*, in part; Nos. 802, 815, 866, 1447, 1448, 1450: thirty-eight symptoms quoted by Hahnemann, and three more quoted by Roth from *West*; in all, forty-one symptoms. All of these were part and parcel of our *Mat. Med.* prior to the publication of the *Encyclopædia*.

None of these symptoms affect, in the slightest, the integrity of our symptomatology; they are blots upon it, and should be erased. The remainder constitute an *absolutely trustworthy* and harmonious pathogenesis, not a line of which can be spared. If we undertake to condense, we find ourselves obliged to omit many things which, though not frequently useful, are in rare cases indispensable; and, we opine, that in these days of careful hygiene, and of skillful general therapeutics, the one who cures these rare and difficult cases wins in the long run. The beginner needs hints in studying, but hints should not constitute his whole stock of knowledge. Let us encourage the student to use these hints as one uses a lamp to study by; let us all seek for more light, and for a larger, rather than a smaller, knowledge of drug action.

Actæa spicata.—Unfortunately, we have no knowledge of the active constituents of this plant, and are unable to judge therefrom of the probable value of its provings. Linnæus, in his "Flora Lapponica," asserts that it produces furious delirium; Colden, in "Acta Upsala," 1745, states that cold sweat with malaise are caused by it. Linnæus farther reports: Horripilation of the scalp, frequent desire to urinate, pimples on the scalp. These observations lead us to infer a powerful drug action, and also give us vague indications of a drug belonging to the order of the Aconites (Ranunculaceæ). Petroz was led (he tells us) to prove it, from Dufresne's use of it, as "a succedaneum to Aconite." In the preface to the symptoms, he apologizes for the absence of the genital symptoms, by saying that *he had lost them*; he furnishes no day-books of provings, does not inform us as to the doses employed to obtain the symptoms, nor of the pharmaceutical preparations of the plant. The *pains*, recorded by Petroz, arrest our attention, as well as the difficult respiration with epistaxis, the paralytic weakness, the pains in the right hypochondrium with yellowness about the mouth, *the swellings of the joints*. We recognize a generic relationship to the Aconites, and have no doubt as to the reliability of the provings. Two cures have been recorded by Ruckert: one of "facial neuralgia," pains, tearing, beginning in a bad tooth and extending to the temples, aggravated by the slightest touch

and by moving the facial muscles; another of "articular rheumatism" in the hands and feet, with swelling of the joints; pains aggravated by the least movement. Inflammation of the knee joint has also been cured by it. We thus perceive that in *Actea* we have a drug capable of considerable development; and, inasmuch as the plant is quite common in America, we hope some one may be encouraged to investigate its chemical composition and its physiological action.

It may not be out of place here to record our own experience with *A. spicata* in true rheumatic gout (Rheumatoid arthritis of Garrod). We were led, first, to try it by Petroz symptoms: "swelling of the joints after fatigue;" "pain as from paralytic weakness in the hands," and the "periosteal pains." In several cases most prompt and truly remarkable (for this usually very obstinate arthritis) cures have been wrought by the drug. In our cases, thus far, we have observed the cure of the following additional symptoms: "great stiffness of the joints after rest," so great (in two cases) that before the patient could dress in the morning she had to plunge the hands into hot water; "great swelling between the joints" and "some oedema of the extremities" (in one case). We should be very glad to learn of additional verifications. We have used the third centess. dilution only.

Adelheidsquelle.—Dr. Bethmann's observations on the effects of this water are good enough as far as they go: for ourselves, we have not "taken to" these provings of mixtures, nor have we been able, from a study of the symptomatology of "mineral spring" waters, to advise patients intelligently how to use them.

The notion that because "mineral springs" exist they are special Providences, and hence *demand* our use, is one which cannot be discussed in this place!

Aesculus.—The Horse-chestnuts and Buckeyes contain an active principle, a glucoside, called *Aesculine*. It occurs most abundantly in the rind of the fruit and bark of the stem; it is soluble in Alcohol, sparingly so in water. The *Aesculine* of *Aesculus pavia* seems to differ somewhat in composition and properties, but in general it is similar to the *Aesculine* of the *Hippocastanum*. This glucoside has been found also in *gelse-*

mium associated with gelsemine: and in India a large tree. *Hymenodictyon erectum*, formerly known as "*China indica*," and supposed to contain chininum, owes its bitterness and active properties mainly to the large amount of *Aesculine* in its bark. In the cotyledons of the fruit of *Aesculus Hippocastanum* are found other less known glucosides, similar to *Aesculine*, so that preparations of the kernel of the fruit are not by any means inert. From our knowledge of the chemical properties of the acids and bases found in *Aesculus*, we may expect equally valuable results from triturations and tinctures; we would prefer the latter, however, as they would contain a solution of these substances, and a tincture of the *whole*—fruit, rind and kernel—would surely be better. We have no information concerning the action of pure *Aesculine*, and shall be obliged to estimate the value of our provings by their own inherent character.

1. *Buchmann*. This first prover of *Aesculus* chewed and swallowed 30 grains of the fresh fruit *deprived of its rind*. The effects began to be felt in about five minutes: "Constrictive pain in the throat, nausea and oppression of the chest," etc.; then follow symptoms of irritated mucous membrane of the nose, throat, larynx and air-passages, conjunctiva, rectum and urethra; with these we find: *heat* in the chest, left side of face: sharp *pains* through the chest, etc. A repetition of the dose, two weeks later, was followed by similar symptoms. This proving cannot be doubted, though it but briefly and superficially outlines the sphere of action of our drug. The next proving is better.

2. *Aug. Buchmann* took the same dose. The symptoms soon began with nausea and oppression of the chest; then followed "soreness in throat and chest; burning and heat in the chest: hawking of thick then watery mucus. From the stomach and alimentary canal of this prover we find: "pain as from a stone above the pit of the stomach, with palpitation; eructations of gas; pain in hypochondria, going to back; desire for stool, followed by three evacuations half an hour after the dose. Feeling of constriction of intestines, followed by repeated stools." This prover experiences the great nervous prostration (so marked in *Aesculus hip.*), with pains in the small of the

back. Note also the accompanying fever: "burning in palms and soles, heat and redness of left side of face, yawning and stretching," etc. After a week the same man took 5 drops of the tincture, from which he experienced fewer abdominal, but more nervous symptoms. "Tearing and jerking of the right arm: paralysis of the right arm, so great, that he could not raise it; weariness and sleep, after which he did not know where he was; feeling of a board against the forehead; then followed chill and yawning, violent crawling in nose and fauces, followed by profuse, fluent coryza; pain in right lung, *which seemed to move up and down painfully*; pale, suffering look," etc.; the symptoms ceased after three hours. Another proving was made, eight months later, with 10 drops of the tincture. This time more abdominal symptoms again; cramps in intestines; after awhile four evacuations, each stool followed by *soreness of the anus*; then profuse, fluent coryza, sneezing, stinging pains in the nose; *the right lung again seems to move painfully up and down*. In this proving also we get "tearing pain in back and right side; chilliness for half an hour, yawning and weakness, pale face," etc. The dose acted four hours.

We begin to appreciate what a proving of this drug may be expected to present. It is even now apparent that we have here a close similitum to catarrhal fever, to a suppressed or undeveloped cold, which now attacks the bowels, now the nose and throat, whose effects do not seem to be relieved by mucus secretions, but show themselves as backache and legache, chilliness, malaise, utter weariness, etc. But we shall find a still greater range of action.

The third of Buchmann's provers was an old maid of 52 summers; she took 40 grains of the peeled fruit; there followed retching, burning, nausea or vomiting; then pressure in forehead and feeling of a cold in the nose: hawking of tough mucus: afterward heat over whole body, an intoxicated feeling in head, oppressed chest, cough, all followed by several thin stools. This proving will not be discredited, nor called a *trashy* contribution to our knowledge of Aesculus.

Another old maid of 33 took the same dose with very similar symptoms; it developed a real fluent coryza with a "whirl-

ing" in the fore part of the nose, and a pressure like a stone in the pit of the stomach. (A reliable proving).

The fifth prover, a man of 48, took the same dose, with many of the same symptoms: "irritation in the throat, frequent desire to raise mucus, sensitiveness of the Schneiderian membrane to air, fluent coryza, etc., frequent desire to urinate, etc. (A good proving).

Another man of 22 took 30 drops of the tincture with similar symptoms, 'coryza and coolness in the nose, irritation in larynx provoking cough and expectoration of mucus, pressure in stomach extending downward, etc., etc.: later the same man took 60 drops, with the same results, not quite as well defined perhaps; from both doses he had lachrymation and flickering before the eyes; from the latter, profuse fluent coryza. (A good proving).

Buchmann's last prover, a woman of 54, took 30 drops of the tincture, from which she experienced, mostly, abdominal symptoms, but she had also dryness of larynx and *became far-sighted*, "could read without glasses which she was unable to do usually," had also twitching of the right eye, and burning in the breasts. A repetition of the dose some days later was followed by similar symptoms with "drawing in at nostril as in violent coryza," "fluor-albus from vagina;" from both doses, "*constipation*."

The next proving we examine is Dr. Burt's in Hale's New Remedies, 2d ed. A careful perusal of this proving will well repay the student. Dr. Burt took first, 10 grains of the first dec. trit. of the dried nut: from this dose he experienced *wholly nervous symptoms*, neuralgic pains, and especially "*dull aching in the small of the back aggravated by motion*;" it is important to note these symptoms, produced as they were on a sensitive prover, by a small dose, and occurring *first of all*, before any other disturbance had been noticed. A dose of 20 grs. produced more pains, and an acrid feeling in the fauces, and *very severe and constant backache*: a repetition of the dose kept his back aching hard all night; in the morning a new dose, then headache, dry fauces, burning in stomach; on the third morning, 45 hours after the first dose his first stool, hard and dry, followed by cutting pains in anus and pains in the umbilical region. After

this he took 10 grs. more; this dose developed the drug more fully, burning pains in stomach and bowels, violent neuralgic pains in forehead and heart, constriction of fauces, irritation of larynx and hacking dry cough; 40 grs. more at noon kept the symptoms going, his back kept aching all the next night (could hardly rise from sitting); in the morning a hard dry knotty stool. Four days after this a natural stool. This first proving of Dr. Burt is most suggestive; note that the backache began within two hours after his first dose and continued throughout his proving. His next proving was made with the crude drug beginning with 20 grains of the powdered nut and followed by repeated doses of 30 grains. These doses developed, smarting dryness, burning, etc., of mucous membranes in eyes, throat, stomach and bowels, with backache, neuralgic pains in head, abdomen and region of heart. The stool was dry and hard till the third day, when the last part was softer and "white as milk;" every stool was followed by pain or distress in the anus. The violent pains extended from the back to the hips and legs; could move only with great difficulty on account of great pain; urine became high-colored, hands hot and dry, etc. These violent symptoms were experienced for four days, after which the stools became softer and the backache gradually disappeared. This prover certainly suffered from hyperæmia of the spinal meninges almost resulting in inflammation (pains *aggravated* by motion) and from excessive congestion of the mucous membrane of the alimentary canal. This dry catarrh at last shut off the bile, causing some pain in the liver, and arrested the secretions from the mucous surfaces of the bowels. The larger doses of Buchmann's provers produced effects more akin to the effect of shock, profuse watery discharges, with less backache.

Proving of Dr. C. W. Boyce.—This prover took repeated ten-grain doses of the first dec. trit. We notice effects already familiar to us, viz: "dryness and stiffness of the throat, nausea, dryness and itching of the rectum, frequent desire for stool, rectum feels dry as if filled with small sticks, feeling of folds of membrane in the rectum which would readily protrude"; also salivation, diarrhoea of ingesta, followed by a sensation as if m. of rectum were thickened, obstructing stool, dryness and

soreness of the rectum. In addition to the above, this prover experienced, on two occasions, catarrhal affections of nose, throat, and larynx; but at no time backache or neuralgic pains; still there can be no doubt of the reliability of his symptoms.

Proving of Dr. T. C. Duncan.—We may expect a good proving, for Dr. Duncan is (or was) very sensitive to drug action, and his symptoms have been uniformly reliable. He took, first, 12 drops of the second dec. dil.; from this he records: "nausea, shooting pain in left eye, soreness of epigastrium, pain in back of neck, *profuse coryza, fullness and itching in the anus*, pricking in hands, languor, dull pain in back"; *next day*, "pressure in nose and at its root, l. nostril filled with mucus, heat, itching and pressure in anus, no stool," etc.; good symptoms, surely. The next day, 20 drops of first dil., followed by similar symptoms, aggravated; also flashes of heat over body, internal organs feel congested, very costive, feces hard in balls"; next day "sore all over, feet which swelled yesterday after walking, continued swollen, cervical glands swollen and tender, joints stiff, pharynx dry and sore, anus sore, lungs sore, urine hot, neuralgic pains in arms," etc., etc., symptoms clear and good. He then took 30 drops, followed by similar symptoms, also great heat over whole body, chilliness on riding in cool air, *great pain in sacro-lumbar region*, pain in arms, great weakness of hands, numbness and prickling sensations, tenderness over liver; stool, first part dark, last part light colored, etc.; a long and most valuable proving; certainly the best we possess; he developed clearly the spinal action of the drug, the pains in the back and limbs, the numbness and tingling of extremities, the loss of control over the muscles or even spasms of the muscles; all showing a pronounced hyperæmia of the cord. He gives an equally clear picture of the action of the drug on mucous membranes, but all without much fever; indeed the action of the drug is rather to depress the pulse. These observations will be referred to later.

Proving of Dr. W. Warren.—This prover took 2 grains of the first dec. trit., and soon experienced pricking in the fauces and burning in stomach; then dull pains in head, etc. A repetition of familiar symptoms clearly genuine; the same may

he said of his subsequent provings with the second dec. trit., from which he reports a greater variety of symptoms: "dull pain in occiput, lameness in back of neck, constriction in rectum, frequent efforts to stool, salivation, burning in the rectum, lameness in small of back, general malaise," etc., etc. *A good and characteristic proving.*

Proving of Dr. H. M. Paine.—This prover took the tincture, beginning with ten drops (without effect) and increasing to fifty. After thirty drops, headache, vertigo, general malaise. After forty drops, griping in epigastrium, headache in vertex, vertigo, sore throat, stool difficult, soreness, aching and fullness in the rectum. *This proving is undoubtedly genuine.*

Dr. Raymond took a dose of the sixth centes. dil.; about an hour afterward he felt an "irritation of the throat and œsophagus, a constricted, scraped sensation, causing a disposition to hawk; this continued several hours."

We have now examined all but two provers and find varied but harmonious symptoms, the most important of which have been verified by clinical experience. Before going farther, it is well to remember, first, *the absence of high fever*. In the most susceptible provers, who experienced the most violent and prolonged effects, the pulse was slow and rather soft: chilliness and flushes of heat were noted certainly, but not much fever. Secondly, the "nervous" symptoms, present in many of the provers; thirdly, the general action on mucous membranes.

The following outlines of a case (one of a large number occurring this winter in New York) well illustrate the clinical application of *Aesculus hip*. A gentleman, over-worked and tired, took cold; he complained of a sore throat which at first seemed hot and stinging, with sneezing but no discharge from the nose; now he suffers from a burning, dryness and scraping of the throat, especially of the posterior wall of the pharynx, extending from the posterior nares to the larynx: at times there is a secretion of mucus, which drops low down and chokes him, causing nausea: at times, also, there is an oozing of blood from points on the pharynx (plainly seen); this blood collects in dark lumps and is thus expectorated; the whole fauces are red, but tonsils not swollen; the patient is weak,

pulse soft, 72; tongue thickly coated, yellowish white; taste sour; cured promptly by the 30th cent. dil.

We turn now to two provings, remarkable as being quite different from all the other provings, and still more remarkable in being almost word for word like each other.

PROVING BY DR. C. H. LEE.—Hale's *New Remedies*, 2d Ed., 1867.

Dec. 26th.—Took 1 drop of 3d dil.

Dec. 27th.—Drowsy. Tongue white.

Dec. 28th.—Dull and stupid; sleepy; weak; lancinating headache at base of brain; tongue white; fetid flatus; abdomen swollen and tympanitic. Took 2 drs.

Dec. 29th.—Same symptoms as yesterday with sore throat; left tonsil swollen and painful; stools light brown, soft, frequent.

Dec. 30th.—Symptoms of yesterday worse. At 4 P. M. severe chill lasted 3 hours; high fever from 7 to 12 P. M., pulse 130, headache as if it would burst; photophobia; profuse hot perspiration with fever; lungs feel engorged; respiration rapid, dyspnœa; heart's action rapid and heavy; urine scanty mahogany color, scalding; stomach felt as if it would fall down; a sore spot on right parietal bone, on pressure sensation of a knife piercing through.

Dec. 31st.—Fever gone, pulse 90; neck stiff, swollen; tonsils swollen fiery red; swallowing difficult; headache less but aggravated by stooping or rising from a chair; respiration more natural; spitting blood on rising in morning; stools harl, dark brown; dark brown sediment in urine.

Jan. 1st.—Pain in l. temple, severe shooting; eyes pinkish; dull pain in region of spleen; stools hard.

PROVING BY DR. E. COOLY.—*Trans. of N. Y. State Hom. Med. Soc.*, Vol. 8, 1870.

Feb. 1st.—Took 4 drops of tinct.

Feb. 2d.—Dull and sleepy. Tongue light brown.

Feb. 3d.—Weak, stupid and dull; sleepy; lancinating headache; brain dull and heavy; fetid flatus; abdomen hard and tender; stools soft.

Feb. 4th.—Took $\frac{1}{2}$ dr. Symptoms of yesterday, but worse with inflamed tonsils; stools thin, watery, streaked with blood.

Feb. 5th.—Symptoms of yesterday intensified. At 4 P. M. chills along spine followed by fever, which increased till he felt as though he would burn up; very thirsty; fever lasted 6 hours; headache almost to madness; perspiration on head and face; lungs much engorged; respiration rapid and labored; pulse 127; heart's action full and rapid; urine scanty, dark yellow, scalding; pain in region of spleen.

Feb. 6th.—Fever less, pulse 104; tonsils fiery red, swollen; headache less, but on motion very severe in the frontal region; respiration less labored; slight cough with stitches in left side of chest; urine dark brown.

Feb. 7th.—Pain in left temple quite severe; eyes dull; dull pain in umbilical region; severe aching in anus; rectum seems swollen; constant desire for stool; stool natural.

Jan. 2d.—Stools soft; urine yellow, with thick, white, mucus sediment. Took 4 drops of tincture.

Jan. 3d and 4th.—Appearance of hæmorrhoids like groundnuts, purple, painful, with burning.

Jan. 6th.—Soft palate dry; fullness in head; urine dark, a little sediment. Took 8 drops.

Jan. 8th.—Throat dry as if scraped swollen; fetid flatus. Took 1 drachm.

Jan. 10th.—Back of throat dry; severe, splitting headache; frequent desire to urinate.

Jan. 11th.—Fauces and palate dry, burning; much thick, yellow phlegm in mouth; tongue yellow; urine dark, scanty; bowels loose, stool brown; pulse frequent, hard; dull aching in the l. elbow.

Jan. 12th.—Symptoms diminished.

We are now compelled to solve the following problems:

1. Were the symptoms noticed by Dr. Lee caused by *Aesculus hip*?
2. Was the "proving" of Dr. Cooley original and due also to *Aesculus hip*?

First. If we compare Dr. Lee's symptoms with those of any former prover, we miss all the well-known features of our drug and find instead a fully developed case of acute tonsillitis with high fever: only after the acute symptoms passed away and the prover took a new dose, do we find some of the familiar symptoms: "hæmorrhoids with burning;" "dry scraped throat," but mingled with these we recognize the remnants of the tonsillitis. Not only do we infer this from the character of the proving itself and from a comparison with other provings, without doubt genuine, but clinical experience has repeatedly

Feb. 8th.—Took 5 drops of tincture. Soon felt a dryness in soft palate with pain and fullness in the head and stiffness of the neck and spine; chills creeping up and down the back; burning in anus; urine dark and muddy, passed with pain; stools natural.

Feb. 9th.—Tumors of a hæmorrhoidal character began to appear, sore, dark purple.

Feb. 10th.—Throat dry, with scraping during expectoration. Took 8 drops.

Feb. 11th.—The above symptoms greatly aggravated; dryness of throat and pharynx; tongue yellow; urine dark; pulse frequent, full; pains in joints.

Feb. 13th.—Symptoms diminished.

failed to establish the utility of *Aesculus* in tonsillitis with high fever. We are inclined to the opinion that Dr. Lee's symptoms cannot be re-produced by the drug, and that his "proving" is a record of an accidental morbid process, not the result of, but to some extent perhaps modified by the drug.

Second. Concerning the remarkable similarity between the provings of Drs. Cooley and Lee, we can only say that we cannot recall anything like it, even among the numerous provings of our best known drugs. Both records were made at times when acute tonsillitis might have developed and the attack may have been attended with identical symptoms in both subjects. It is, however, quite remarkable that the severe chill should have occurred on precisely the same day and at the same hour, and that the most important symptoms should have corresponded so perfectly throughout. We confess ourselves inclined, at first, to the opinion that *Dr. Cooley* intended to present *Dr. Lee's* proving again to the profession for discussion, but the season (Dec.) does not correspond, nor do the doses first taken; there are also some slight variations in the symptoms which oblige us to abandon such an assumption. We have been unable to obtain Dr. Cooley's address to offer him an opportunity to explain and defend his proving: we hope this article may come to his notice and induce him to verify it by repeating the experiment. Till that is done we must propose the elimination of the symptoms of Drs. Lee and Cooley from our *Materia Medica*.

Aethusa.—The natural order, *Umbelliferae*, to which this belongs, embraces a large number of plants possessed of poisonous properties, and an equally large number, either inert or not poisonous, even when taken in large quantity. There is no order in which there is a greater similarity of outward appearance, in size, shape of leaf, color and size of flower and fruit. The most poisonous and most harmless species often grow side by side, and can be distinguished only by an expert botanist. *Aethusa* grows in waste places, associated with *Conium* (from which it is difficult to distinguish it) and many other plants, poisonous and harmless. It was formerly supposed that this plant contained an alkaloid (cynapine), but it is now known

hat it possesses no active principle. It was formerly supposed that the plant was poisonous, but it is now known to be harmless; but since some continue to believe and teach that perhaps it may after all be poisonous, and since students of *materia medica* are properly unwilling to strike out any symptom without good reason, we will review, briefly, the toxicological history of the plant. Early writers on botany gave it a bad reputation. Lobel, Bauhinus, Blair, Linneus, Haller and Vicat, had in turn called it poisonous; not by reason of any experiments they had made, but because they followed the popular belief. The following detailed accounts have been published since 1731:

1. Two boys ate the root*; one became frightfully swollen and died in a few hours; the other vomited and recovered.
2. A family ate of the plant: the father and two children died; the mother and three children recovered; the father had *stupor*, vomiting and diarrhœa, cold extremities, etc.
3. A boy of 6 ate the herb, swelled, became livid, and died; another of 4 vomited, became delirious, but recovered.
4. Two ladies ate some leaves with salad; they experienced nausea, headache, vertigo, pungent heat in the mouth, numbness and tremor of lower extremities, etc.
5. A girl ate some of the plant; she experienced pain in chest, nausea, vomiting, headache, vertigo, her face became swollen, pulse full and quick, etc.
6. Nine children ate of the root: one became unconscious, another vomited and purged bloody mucus, two died in violent convulsions, all had swollen abdomen, pulse small, hard, irregular, etc.
7. Two children partook of the fresh juice of the root (the root of *Aethusa* is not juicy): one had violent convulsions, the other violent vomiting, cold extremities, unconsciousness, etc.
8. Two people ate the herb in a salad: one died in an hour, after nausea and coma; the other vomited but died after some weeks in consequence of the violent gastritis.
9. A man ate a handful of the plant: he became dizzy, had double vision and after a day or two, facial erysipelas.
10. A family ate the herb for salad: all had vertigo, nausea, trembling, cold sweat, etc.; one

* *Aethusa* has a very small, woody, tapering root.—*T. F. A.*

had convulsions of the arms, intermittent pulse, violet spots on the thigh, etc. 11. A woman boiled a root in some soup for her two children; one child became unconscious, jaws became fixed, she purged bloody mucus, had convulsions and died. 12. Three children ate the "bulbs" (!) (*Medical Times*, 1848); one was seized with delirium and trismus, and died; the others vomited and recovered.

Dr. Harley has analysed these cases, in St. Thomas Hospital Reports, Vol. IV, 1873, and shown how difficult it is to credit the assertion that *Aethusa* was the plant used. In two cases only was the plant actually identified and in these instances not by botanists. If, however, the plant be so deadly in its effects that a few leaves, or some soup in which a root had been boiled could cause death, surely we should expect some corroborative testimony from provings. Let us not forget the difficulty of identifying a plant which children had eaten or a mother had gathered for soup, mistaking it for parsley; and if experiments clearly demonstrate the fact that the fresh plant is not productive of any serious effects let us not hesitate to acknowledge it.

Dr. Harley's Observations on the Fresh Juice.—(1) A man took three and a half fluidrachms of the fresh juice, no marked effect. (2) A man took various doses up to four drachms without effect. (3) A woman took three and again four drachms without effect. (4) A young man took dose of one ounce every second or third day for a month without effect. (5) A young man took doses up to eleven drachms without much effect. (6) A man took doses up to *two* ounces without marked effect. (7) A man took doses up to two and a half ounces with but little effect. (8) A man took as much as four ounces with no marked effects.

Inasmuch as the plant is not juicy these doses represent a large amount of the fresh herb.

Dr. Harley's experiments with the tincture of the fruit, tincture of the ripe fruit, and the unripe fruit, with the extract, and with the oleo-resin, were also negative in their results.

In order, however, to satisfy ourselves fully and conclusively we imported through Messrs. Boericke and Tafel a quantity of

the expressed juice of the plant (mixed with sufficient alcohol to prevent decomposition). This was accompanied by a certificate from the director of the botanic gardens at Leipzig to the effect that the plant gathered was the true *Aethusa cynapium*. We took it ourselves in doses of two ounces without effect; we gave it to over forty individuals, to some small doses to others large with the results detailed in Vol. X of our Encyclopedia. There is no doubt in our mind that the plant is harmless and that its supposed toxicological effects should not be retained in the *Materia Medica*. Its clinical record has not verified such symptoms, and they should no longer remain as stumbling blocks, over which the conscientious prescriber might fall while his patients died, because he was led to give *Aethusa* instead of *Conium*, *Cicuta*, or *Aconite* as the case might be.

Symptoms from Brugmans, Tournon and Roques, detailed in Encyclopedia, p. 270, may be retained or not, as one pleases; to some extent they corroborate the effects observed by some of the New York provers; but we are not satisfied with the account of the preparation used by Dr. Brugmans, nor with the identification of the plant eaten by the patients of Drs. Tournon and Roques. We might as well throw out all of these.

This brings us to the provings of Nenning, Hartlaub and Trinks; Petroz, and finally Bigler.

It seems that Nenning (about whom we learn from Dr. Hering's letter in Encyclopedia, p. 640) made provings for Hartlaub and Trinks. It is probable that most of his symptoms were observed in women; it is certain that he was careful, conscientious and enthusiastic; it is known that after administering the drug, *every* symptom was noted, however trivial, *or however familiar to the prover*; thus we find in his provings a great deal which should have been omitted, but we have no means of eliminating untrustworthy symptoms, except by failing to verify them in the treatment of the sick. We cannot afford to throw Nenning overboard altogether, as some have suggested, for he gave us *Kreosotum*, *Bovista* and many others; as well as many valuable symptoms of *Alumina*, *Phosphorus*, *Cantharides* and a score of others. We can only regret, that after the fashion of those times, no information was imparted concerning the individual provers or the doses administered.

Hartlaub records one symptom only, "Chilliness through the whole body with external coldness, without thirst, for two days."

Trinks reports one symptom only, "Violent pains in the sin-ciput, as if the head were compressed from behind and above with great force (in all patients);" this symptom is emphasized in the original and we suspect it to be clinical, especially from the note in brackets.

Petroz, in *Bull. de la Soc. Med. Hom. de Paris* (1847), vol. 4, p. 337, publishes a list of symptoms without any information whatever as to their origin. The following is a specimen of this "pathogenesis" (section fever):

"Chill in general.

"Chill internal.

"Red face during the chill.

"Horripilation in the open air.

"During the horripilation the limbs feel broken, hot breath, jactitation.

"Shivering in the house.

"Shivering after having walked in the open air.

"Shivering more readily after noon.

"Horripilation with heat which pervades the whole body.

"Heat.

"Very great suffering during the heat.

"Sweat.

"During the sweat the covering cannot be tolerated.

"The symptoms of fever manifest themselves particularly in the morning, and with a very great malaise, tendency to delirium (!), which disappears during the sweat."

At the close of his unsatisfactory list of symptoms Dr. Petroz remarks:

"This medicine has been useful in chronic inflammation of the margin of the eyelids, pustule on the cornea, incipient amaurosis, glandular swellings, dartrous eruption on the tip of the nose, swelling of the cervical and axillary glands, eruptions around the joints, dryness of the skin, nodosities on the skin, itching tetter during the heat, eruptions which bleed easily, anasarca."

We are not sufficiently acquainted with the action of *Aethusa* to reject the pathogenesis of Dr. Petroz by a comparison with other provings, nor is there any element of suspicion in it; his symptoms are vague and immaterial, and not marked by any clear characteristic feature.

The symptoms of *Aethusa* recorded by Dr. Bigler, in the AMER. JOURN. OF HOM. M. M., for 1871, were observed in a woman of sallow complexion, and a sufferer from hæmorrhoids. The doctor "had occasion" (for what symptoms we are not informed) to give *Aethusa* third dec. dil., after which the following symptoms appeared:—"Imagined she saw rats run across the room. Distressing pain in occiput and nape, extending down spine, relieved by friction with hot whisky. Coldness of abdomen, objective and subjective, with aching in bowels, relieved by warm applications, with coldness of lower extremities; obstinate constipation with feeling of loss of all action. Numbness of the arms. Painful aching about the left scapula, sometimes extending into the left arm. Sensation as if arms were shorter; she examined them in the morning to convince herself that they were not really shorter. Appearance and disappearance, in one day, of reddish-blue spots on trunk and left leg. Aggravation of symptoms towards evening and during the night till 3 or 4 A.M. A feeling as if the pain in the back would be relieved by straightening out and bending stiffly backwards, as in opisthotonos; and attempt to relieve the pain in scapula and arm by rigid expansion and closing the fist, as in a tonic spasm." Dr. Bigler feels certain that these symptoms were produced by *Aethusa*: with our present knowledge of *Aethusa*, we feel equally certain that they were *not*.

It is now evident that our knowledge of the positive effects of this substance are exceedingly vague and unsatisfactory; we know that it most surely and promptly cures certain gastric and intestinal troubles, especially of children; but the indications for its use in these diseases are wholly clinical. The *forcible vomiting of curdled milk* and of greenish mucus, especially during a summer diarrhœa, is very characteristic; but it cures equally well catarrhal troubles of the lower bowel without vomiting. Witness a cure reported by Dr. Doughty, of N.Y.: "A

child eighteen months old had dysentery; stools, mucus streaked with blood, mucus sometimes greenish; great tenesmus: all the stools occurred between 6 and 12 A.M.; and *no vomiting*. Mercur., Podoph., and other remedies, had been given without effect. *After one dose of Aethusa²⁰⁰ the child had but one stool, and was well.*

We strongly suspect that Tannic acid might produce and cure most of the symptoms of Aethusa, but that remains to be proven. Until a new and thorough proving of this drug is made, we shall be obliged to let the pathogenesis in Vol. X stand; *but we must insist upon rejecting all cases of poisoning*, the symptoms of which have been incorporated hitherto with our provings.

NOTE.—We are pleased to note the companion and complimentary studies of Dr. Richard Hughes, now publishing in the *British Journal of Homœopathy*. Together these studies will permit a just and accurate estimate of the material at our disposal, the character of which is of such vital importance to the existence of the homœopathic school of medicine. We can but regret that while the number of those who decry our Materia Medica is large, and their voices are loud, the number of those who honestly and zealously strive to improve it should be so small. Let others join in this toilsome work.

Agaricus.—The name, AGARICUS, must be retained in the Materia Medica, not only because it is the oldest, but especially because it is the only one recognized by botanists. *Amanita* is the name of a *sub-division* of the genus, but this sub-section has not sufficient character to establish its right to be called a genus, hence Persoon's name, "*Amanita*," has been rejected, and the old name of Linnaeus sustained. We regret to see this new name introduced into some works, for it serves only to confuse students.

In order to judge of the value of the several contributions to our knowledge of the action of the various species of Agaricus, it is well to review briefly their composition and general action on the human organism.

Most species are known to be poisonous; the least injurious grow in dry exposed ground and are white in color, the most injurious are found in damp, shaded places and are colored: no general rule is known by means of which the inexperienced botanist may discriminate between the poisonous and inert species;

more than this, the species commonly used as food (*A. campestris*) has sometimes proved very poisonous. Much depends upon the manner of growth and method of preparation. A temperature above 100 C. will cause disintegration of the alkaloid, *Muscarin*, and render it harmless; mixing with acids only increases its power to injure, but cooking with alkalies speedily decomposes it.

The alkaloid, Muscarine, found chiefly in *A. Muscarius*, either occurs in numerous *Agarics* or is replaced by another alkaloid having very similar properties: one is impressed by the similarity of action of various *Agarics* on reading reports of authenticated cases of poisoning; and while it is not difficult to recognize a case of poisoning by an *Agaric*, it is impossible at the present time to distinguish between the effects of different species.

In a general way the acute symptoms of mushroom poisoning are like those of cholera morbus and sometimes they are strikingly like those of Asiatic cholera. Colic, vomiting, profuse alvine evacuations, profuse salivation, violent, spasmodic contractions of the stomach, intestines and bladder; respiration rapid and embarrassed; pulse small, thready and irregular; surface of body cold; features pinched; *pupils contracted* till the death agony; delirium or coma; convulsive movements of the extremities, followed by paralysis. Should the patient recover from these violent symptoms, there may follow acute nephritis with its attendant symptoms, or long-continued and obstinate affections of the nervous system. The symptoms are strikingly like those of calabar bean, and their physiological interpretation is nearly the same. On the eye there is noticed the interesting difference, that while *Agaricus* causes first spasm of the ciliary muscle, then of the iris, *Physostigma* reverses the order, affecting first the pupil, then the accommodation.

The violent symptoms of *Agaricus* are antidoted by *Belladonna*, and it is noteworthy that many of the re-actionary effects of *Agaricus* (or the primary ones of small doses) are very like those of large doses of *Belladonna*.

In smaller doses, *Agaricus* produces rush of blood to the head, red face and rapid, full pulse, vertigo, oppressed and

anxious respiration, heaviness of the head, dim vision, salivation and (if the dose be an "intermediate" one) some griping in the bowels, with general perspiration. Delirium is on the whole unusual, but it certainly occurs in some cases, and is often imaginative, jolly or violent (like Belladonna). The symptoms of intoxication (alcohol-like), reported from Kamtschatka, seem to us doubtful, but the authority is good and they must stand till some more definite observations are made. It will be noticed that but few cases of poisoning have been quoted in the Encyclopedia; this happens principally from the fact that in very few instances only was the species of *Agaricus* *certainly* determined; and while we are inclined to accept all poisonings by *Agaricus* of the section *Amanita* as identical, there remains sufficient doubt to keep them separate for the present, and to exclude those cases of mushroom poisoning in which the species was unknown.

We take it for granted that no one can doubt the genuineness of the cases of poisoning accepted by us—in *A. muscarius* and other species mentioned in our work. We shall therefore proceed at once to the examination of the provings.

The first provings were made by Schreter and Stapf and published in the *Praktisch. Mitthl. d. corresp. Gesell. homœop. Aerzte*, 1828. In the collection of symptoms published in the 9th vol. of the *Archiv. f. Hom. Heilk.*, 1830, Schreter's symptoms are omitted, and others by Hahnemann, Fr. Hahnemann, Langhammer and from a few cases of poisoning added; in this resumé the former symptoms of Stapf are credited to Gross. Hahnemann restored Schreter's symptoms in his resumé in the *Chronische Krankheiten*, vol. II, 1835. In the *Archiv.* vol. 9, it is directed to prepare the drug by trituration of the dried fungus, and Hahnemann also directs this method in his work; but in the 10th vol. of the *Archiv.* a larger and finer collection of symptoms is published by Apelt, who obtained them from the *tincture of the fresh plant* (equal parts of the expressed juice and Alcohol). Since we know how liable these fungi are to change by heat and moisture, and especially since the clearest and most characteristic effects were obtained by Apelt and the Austrian provers, we have directed a tincture to be prepared from the fresh plant.

Of all the earliest provers, the symptoms of Apelt and Gross (Stapf) have been most frequently verified. Apelt began his provings with 6—8 drops of the tincture and afterward took the 12th and 30th potencies, “always with great effect;” of the doses Gross *took we have no record*.

Apelt furnishes no day-book and gives *the time* of the symptom in but few instances; but a study of his work will convince anyone that it is genuine; his proving may be taken as our starting point.

Vertigo, after $\frac{1}{4}$ hour, after one hour, after eight days; immediately after taking the drug and going out of doors, incessant yawning, so violent that he became dizzy. The pains in the head and eye symptoms, so very characteristic of *Agaricus*, have been of all provers, best observed by Apelt. Nausea with colic, gripings in the bowels, diarrhea; frequent, followed by slow and weak micturition, show how sensitive Apelt was to the drug, and the similarity of these symptoms to many cases of poisoning is very striking. We may also notice the profuse sweat after coition, the back symptoms, the pains in the extremities, *the violent pain through the right hypochondrium, the burning itching on the leg*, etc. These isolated symptoms afford only a faint impression of the character of the proving, which will be deepened and broadened by reading the whole of it. One other point illustrates the honesty of Apelt, and increases our confidence in him; namely, the notes made to the following symptoms: “The epileptic spasms become more violent and recur at shorter intervals” (“after a dose of the quadrillionth potency in an epileptic”), “The epileptic spasms become more violent, recur at shorter intervals, but subsequently remain away for a much longer time than before, and the following attacks are very light” (“from a dose of 30th in two epileptics”). These two symptoms must be erased from the Encyclopedia (symptoms 2268 and 2269) and transferred to some work on therapeutics. The other symptoms which require scrutiny are the following, given in full with Apelt’s notes.*

“A man suffered for several months from a very distressing

* Following Hahnemann, these symptoms have been condensed in the Encyclopedia.

twitching of the right eyeball, for which he held to the open eye for a few moments a glass filled with the decillionth dilution of *Agaricus muscarius*; he experienced the following effects: 'Slight sensation of contraction of the eye with increased *clearness* (*note* in the Encyclopedia s. 354 reads *dimness*, and should be corrected) of vision of that eye: after a minute slight biting on the eyeball itself followed, and some tears flowed, which did not dim the sight; after a few minutes there followed twitching in the left eye, and twitching of the right eye disappeared entirely. Drinking a little wine after dinner immediately stopped the action of the remedy.' After this, on the same day, the application of the remedy as before was repeated and the following effects were noticed: "The biting in the eye became much less; the former twitching of the right eye did not recur, but at 7 P.M. there set in sleepiness and chilliness over the whole body, which compelled him to go to bed. On undressing and getting into bed he was seized with a shaking chill, after which he fell asleep, but soon awoke with slight headache; after a short time he slept again and broke into a very profuse, oily, not offensive sweat over the whole body; in the morning after this he was quite well except that the stool which had been regular every day was suppressed for three days and was then at first hard. He suffered also from violent burning itching on the right fore-arm, which obliged him to scratch, but which was not relieved thereby; soon there appeared at this place a number of whitish nodes as large as grains of wheat, and the epidermis desquamated in fine mealy scales. He also experienced violent burning itching on the left leg, which compelled scratching, but which was not thereby relieved, and a number of white pimples as large as grains of wheat appeared, which desquamated in a mealy manner. They lasted about an hour and the itching disappeared with them."

Roth, in the *Hom. Vierteljahrschrift*, X, 217, makes merry over these symptoms, but without reason except that they should have been caused by absorption of the drug through the conjunctiva. We believe they might have resulted as readily from conjunctival as from buccal, schneiderian, vaginal or any other absorption. Our only objection would be the

health of the prover: so far as we are informed he was well, except the twitching of the eyeball; certainly his symptoms are very good *Agaricus* symptoms and we are not inclined to throw them out. Only one other symptom of Apelt's requires notice and elimination. "The tetter spreads" (s. 2360). This is a very natural observation of a prover who had a slight tetter: it does not necessarily follow that Apelt observed the symptom in a patient suffering from an eruption for which he prescribed *Agaricus*: indeed, Apelt expressly states that he himself proved the drug, and we are at liberty to accept his symptoms in good faith, with the possible exception of those above mentioned, which have been fully illuminated by Apelt himself.

Gross.—The symptoms attributed to Gross in the *Archiv*, vol. 9, and in Hahnemann *Chr. Krn.*, are neither so numerous nor so characteristic of the drug as those of Apelt, but he has given us a number of the finer characteristics of the drug, either obtained from a less active preparation (and hence smaller doses) or from higher dilutions, for example "Burning as if he had been burned on the left fore-arm," also a similar burning on the left leg, "A mingled sensation of fine pricking and burning in various parts of the body," and many other sensations undoubtedly the result of *Agaricus*.

Hahnemann was more sensitive, or took larger doses, for he had diarrhoea, colic, and pains which remind us of a slight poisoning; his pains also are *tearing* like those of Apelt: he had vertigo, violent headache of a tearing character, "warmth of the face and whole upper part of the body in frequent attacks, 5 to 10 minutes," and among a few additional symptoms given in the chronic diseases we find "flow of saliva from the mouth," "sensitiveness of the scalp like an ulcer." The more we study Hahnemann's own symptoms, the more are we convinced that he was exceedingly sensitive to drugs, and that he observed most carefully his symptoms.

Schreter.—Concerning the symptoms of this prover, which were first published in the *Prakt. Mitthl.*, suppressed in the resumé in the *Archiv*, 9, and restored by Hahnemann in his *Chronic Diseases*, we must notice the following points: "Contraction of the lids" (like Apelt, who proved later), "the open

ing of the eyes is smaller than usual and can be widened with difficulty" (identical with Apelt); "Lachrymation of the right eye;" "nausea and efforts to vomit;" "rumbling and noises in the abdomen;" "soft stool followed the usual morning stool;" "coition impossible, no erections, though he desired to cohabit, followed by emissions in the night" (very like Apelt's experience). "Rawness and scraping in the throat" (like Apelt); "heaviness of the limbs, as if weak and exhausted" (like Apelt); "yawning and stretching" (it is interesting to notice the sleepiness which seems to have attacked nearly every prover down to Mrs. —, who made a proving, reported by Dr. Berridge, with something called the "99 m. Fincke" of *Agaricus*, and experienced *one* symptom: "Felt sleepy on and off during the day"! Apelt was sleepy and weary, yawned and slept in the forenoon. These are the main features of Schreter's proving, and it is doubtless, as Hahnemann considered, genuine.

Fr. Hahnemann.—The few symptoms of this prover present no remarkable feature; they are doubtless genuine: witness the "loud rumbling in the bowels," "slimy diarrhea with much flatulence;" "a feeling as if he must constantly wipe the eyes;" "a pulling-down heavy feeling in both temples as far as half way down the ears, as if a heavy weight hung from each temple" (a good symptom), etc.

Langhammer.—The symptoms of this excellent prover are more numerous and better than any of these early provers except Apelt. They are thoroughly corroborative of the others, from the "constant yawning as though he had not slept enough" to the "tickling itching on the toes which provokes scratching, as in frozen feet" (a symptom we have verified over and over again). Langhammer observed also, as Hahnemann did and as later cases of slight poisoning report, "violent attacks of heat, so that the cheeks glowed, with cold hands," etc. He proved, doubtless, with low potencies or with small doses of the tincture, not large enough to obtain toxicological effects, for he reports: pupils dilated in fifteen minutes and contracted after 25 hours; he had "dizzy reeling in the head as from intoxicating drink, staggering to and fro while walking out of doors;" "hiccough;" "evacuations of much pasty stool;"

"straining to urinate with extremely little discharge, after 45 minutes;" "great trembling of the hands as from old age on moving or holding anything;" on the whole we think very highly of Langhammer's symptoms, they bring out some of the best points of the drug.

In 1831 Hartlaub and Trinks published in the third vol. of their *Mat. Med.* a pathogenesis of *Agaricus musc.*, composed of 70 symptoms by Woost, 50 by Seidel, 26 by Nenning, 6 by "Sch." ("an unknown friend of Seidel's"), 7 obtained from Voigtel's *Mat. Med.*, 5 from Lenger's *Memorabilien* and 2 from the *Pharmakal Lex.*, giving an account of the effects on the natives of Kamtschatka.

Woost's symptoms are without very definite character (if we except the "overpowering sleepiness obliging him to lie down, after two hours"); he says the drug acts a long time, 7—8 weeks; he experienced drawing and sticking pains in various parts of the body. Some symptoms impress us more favorably; "strong sunlight, in the morning, caused a momentary vertigo even to falling;" "dull pressing headache relieved after a profuse stool; with this pain flushes of heat;" "transient burning of the cheeks," and symptoms of coldness of the legs.

Seidel gives us more characteristic symptoms; he reverses the order of the evacuations, being first constipated for two or three days, then having pasty stools; red scanty urine the first two days. The following seem to us good and important symptoms: "Pressure and drawing in the eyeballs extending to the forehead;" "very acute drawing in the eyeballs;" "burning of the cheeks;" his abdominal symptoms are also good; "twitching of the muscles in the right lumbar region, evenings," is excellent.

Nenning experienced "cutting colic followed by diarrhoea, thirst, accumulation of water in the mouth and twitching in the ball of the l. great toe the second day;" "*frequent painless twitching in the right temple near the eye*;" "lachrymation;" "burning of the eyes with a feeling of contraction;" "*profuse micturition* on the 4th day;" "falling asleep of the left hand at night," etc. We believe in Nenning, and our belief has followed scepticism and is based on repeated and careful study of his pro-

ings; we invariably find him reliable, though sometimes there seems to be a surplus of detail, but we find none of it in this instance; he seems to have proved with the crude drug or very low potencies.

Sch. gives a half dozen good symptoms, "vertigo in the open air which ceased in the house, several days" (this "open-air-vertigo," "vertigo from sunlight," etc., has been experienced by several other provers); "heaviness and confusion of the head;" "burning pressing pain over the right eye with lachrymation;" "slight nose-bleed," etc.

The Austrian provings were made with great care and perseverance; the freshly prepared tincture was used or dilutions prepared on the decimal scale. As the doses are not given in the Encyclopedia we will supply the deficiency here and glance at the main points of each proving.

Adler began with 100 drops of the second decimal dilution; his first symptom, "fulness in the umbilical region," was followed by flatulent disturbances in the abdomen; the second day a dose of 200 drops was followed by nausea, etc., a "painful jerk in a loose tooth," was renewed after a drink of cold water; the third day 300 drops, followed by more head symptoms, "pain as if the sides of the head were pressed together;" "vertigo," and after some hours urgent stool; in the afternoon weakness of the lower extremities. After this he took the tincture, increasing from 4 to 80 drop doses (from Sept. 14th to October 1st). These doses developed violent pains, stinging and tearing (compare our earlier provers); stupefaction and sleepiness at times (45 to 50 drops); pressing pains in the eyes; enlarged hemorrhoids, which finally burst; drawing pains from forehead into the eyes, etc.

Adler's wife, 27 years old, began with 100 drops of the second dilution, first day: 200 drops second and third days. She suffered from violent sticking and tearing pains in the head with vertigo, tearing pains in the teeth extending to the ear; the menses came on two days earlier and flowed more profusely than usual; violent spasmodic hiccough, palpitation with burning pains in the region of the heart; running of water from the mouth; irresistible itching of the genitals and other

parts of the body; dark green thin stool. The profound weakness with palpitation, stupefying headache and vertigo continued more than a week.

Rosalie A., 60 years old (blind from childhood), took first day the second dec. dil., 100 drops; second day 200; third day 300; fourth day *the tincture*, 10 drops; fifth day 15; sixth day 20; seventh day 25; eighth day 30; ninth day 40; tenth day 45; twelfth day 30 drops. The first two days she had a shaking chill, followed, the second day, by heat in the head; the third day intolerable buzzing in both ears; afterward burning in left eyebrow near temple; violent sticking and *twitching in l. eyebrow*, cutting pains in abdomen, vomiting; *painful twitching of the r. eyeball*; sticking pains in different parts (rectum, liver, loin); after the last dose "burning on the vertex with stupefaction and vertigo, she seemed to be turning around and had to lie down on the floor to avoid falling."

Baumgartner made his first experiments with the decimal dilutions, 100 drop doses, as follows: Oct. 24th, the eighth dil., Oct. 30th, seventh dil., Nov. 1st to 3d, sixth dil., 5th to 8th, fifth dil., 9th to 11th, fourth dil., 13th to 16th, third dil., 17th to 20th, second dil., 21st to 24th, first dil. As his earliest symptoms are exceedingly important and characteristic, we will give some of them in detail. The first thing noticed was on the first day, "*a spot in the spine between the eighth and ninth dorsal vertebræ became painful to touch*" and the next day there was a painless pulsation synchronous with the pulse, "as if the aorta were in the vertebral canal," relieved by pressure; associated with this symptom were momentary tearings in tendinous expansions in various parts of the body; during the following days "after every dose" backache and increased saliva; a feeling in the head as though the fore-part were enlarged and pressed apart by the brain; boring pulsating pains in the squamous portion of the temporal bone; sensitiveness of the eyeballs, etc.

The trouble between the 8th and 9th dorsal vertebræ became worse and the place painful on turning the body; this was aggravated after the third dilution; while making his proving with the tincture he records (after a dose of 100 drops) "a very

acute pain on pressure on the 12th dorsal and 1st and 2d lumbar vertebræ, with a cold feeling in the nates and formication in the feet," this pain increased, and on the next day was violent on turning the body, and after much exertion it pulsed, associated with weakness in the small of the back with pressing, tensive pain and spasmodic contraction of the glutei muscles, which made walking difficult; a few days later, pain in the sacrum as if it would burst, formication in the feet, etc.; later, loss of all sexual desire. Two weeks later, after 300 drops of the tincture, great weakness and trembling of the lower extremities, insensibility and coldness of the nates, constant jerkings in the small of the back and lower limbs, coldness of the whole body with hot head, *painless pulsation in the spinal chord* and a feeling as though a cold air spread from the back over the whole body; he could retain the urine only a few moments, and the sphincter of the bladder did not seem to close properly, for it dribbled long after urinating and kept him wet; the penis became cold and shrivelled. Ten days after this he took 400 drops and (among other symptoms) had frequent thin stools with burning in the anus, paralytic weakness of the sphincters of anus and bladder, so that he could retain the excreta only with the greatest difficulty, pressure in the small of back and hip-joints "as though the painful head of the femur would separate from the pelvis," formication in the extremities, etc. We have partially followed out one phase of this man's proving; it shows not only the sphere of action of *Agaricus* on the spine, but demonstrates the harmony of his symptoms and the persistent thoroughness with which the proving was prosecuted. We regret that space will not permit a review of his head, eye, throat and stomach symptoms.

Copainigg, 23 years old, perfectly well, except that he had a tape-worm, took the tincture, 5 and 10 drop doses repeated; the whole proving lasted about ten days; in his symptoms we recognize clearly *Agaricus* and find no suspicious complications. Sticking pains in different parts of the body; cold extremities and hot head, burning heat in the eyes; chilliness along the spine; formication beginning in the spine; spasmodic yawning and overpowering sleepiness.

